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## Gov't proposes 6-8% second-stage pullback

By JAY BUSHINSKY and HILDE KUTTLER

Israel's proposal that the second troop withdrawal required by the Oslo Accords transfer another six percent to eight percent of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority will be presented today to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Netanyahu's policy adviser Uzi Arad will travel to Cairo to try to obtain Egypt's endorsement, so that Mubarak can persuade the Palestinians to accept the plan.

Upon completion of the second redeployment, as proposed by Netanyahu and his ministers, the PA would control 35%-37% of the West Bank, he said. At present, the PA controls 29% of the West Bank.

This is unlikely to impress the PA leadership. One of its chief negotiators, Local Affairs Minister Saeb Erekat, said 90% of the West Bank should be transferred to the PA by the time the parties approach final-status talks, the official said.

But Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has discussed the redeployment in the context of the four-part US agenda for advancing the peace process, including in her meeting with Netanyahu in London two weeks ago, the official acknowledged.

Asked about the Israeli's floating yesterday of the idea of a 6%-8% withdrawal, the official said that "whatever it is, the number should be a serious proposal."

Referring to US dissatisfaction earlier in the year with Netanyahu's proposed 9% redeployment from Areas C and B, the official said: "As we said when we saw the first number, we wanted the next one to be more serious."

## Unemployment rises to 8.1%

By DAVID HARRIS

Unemployment reached an average 8.1 percent, or 179,000 people, during the third quarter of the year, the highest jobless total since April 1994, according to data the Central Bureau of Statistics published yesterday.

Peretz met once again yesterday with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman in an attempt to bring to an end the dispute over pension reforms in the economy and wholesale privatization, which the Histadrut claims will lead to even higher unemployment.

The seasonally adjusted figures show a jump of 10,000 people or 0.4% of the work force, compared to the second-quarter statistics. Over the last 12 months, the number of unemployed has risen by 36,000, or 1.5%.

The civilian work force averaged 2,220,000 in the third quarter, compared to 2,205,000 in the previous quarter, and 2,173,000

between July and September a year ago. The work force increased by 2.8% in the year to September, with the over-15 population growing some 2.7%.

The agriculture sector employed an average of 47,000 in the first nine months of the year, down 5.5% on the same period last year, while 396,000 worked in industry, a 2% decline. The number of people working in the construction, food, and hotel industries dropped by 1.3%.

While expressing his concern at the figures, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said yesterday there is no link between unemployment and inflation. The unemployment figure has been steadily rising since the first quarter last year, accompanied by an ongoing fall in the inflation rate.

The average figure for the first nine months of the year was 7.7%, a 1.2% rise over the same period last year.

Freinkel also advised the government not to raise taxes as part of its 1998 state budget package, as this leads to stunted growth and increased unemployment.

Among others expressing their disappointment at the figures was Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, who said the blame lies with the government.

## Low tech's dying gasps

Considering that between 1987 and 1992 unemployment rose from 6 percent to 11%, and that by 1996 joblessness plummeted to just under 5%, yesterday's data clearly indicates a trend reversal which calls for macroeconomic introspection.

First, most of today's unemployed are unskilled refugees from the country's once labor-intensive, low-tech industries. While labor bureaus handle people who once manned lengthy conveyor belts where they would stitch pants, assemble motors, or pack sardines into cans, high-tech parks across the country are thirsting for personnel. In other words, while technology companies sprouted here at a pace of roughly one every 36 hours and consequently catapulted high-tech's share in industrial output to nearly 70%, low tech has been marginalized.

Yet the mere breaking of a psychological barrier - 8%, in this case - is still no cause for rash conclusions, let alone negative ones, about the government's economic policies. Indeed, rather than stemming from this or that administrative decision, Israel's unemployment trends since the launch of the 1985 stabilization program reflected large-scale historical processes, both local and global.

Justice Ministry spokeswoman Enti Eshed said that the file has been passed on to the state attorney, but that no decision has been made on whether to indict.

While the '92 peak of 11% reflected the market's initial response to mass immigration from the former Soviet Union, and just like the jobless rate's subsequent decline reflected the market's digestion of that influx through foreign investment, the current rate represents the other side of Israel's globalization revolution.

Police spokeswoman Linda Memulin said there was an investigation and that it was completed, but she would not confirm that the police were asking for an indictment.

According to Abramovitch, a senior representative of the State Attorney's Office was involved in the investigation every step of the way.

Earlier yesterday, in his first press conference since resigning, Lieberman accused Likud ministers of having "plotted a political coup against Netanyahu while he was abroad last week."

He also announced his intention to work on Netanyahu's behalf in political score-settling, but do his utmost to make sure that conspiracies to bring down the prime minister will not be repeated.

Lieberman last night said the report was "nonsense. This is of no interest to me. This is a case they have been handling for three years. I had no idea they would recommend prosecution. In fact I was told they were about to close the file."

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## Lieberman faces indictment for fraud

Dismisses report of police recommendations as 'nonsense'

By SARAH HONG, HERB KEINON, and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The police have recommended that Avigdor Lieberman, who resigned as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday, be indicted for fraud and theft. The charges relate to his activities as head of Gesher Aliya, a non-profit organization he headed in the early 1990s.



According to Channel 1's Amnon Abramovitch, just a few days before Lieberman resigned, the police decided to recommend to the State Attorney's office that he be indicted on suspicion that he did not repay NIS 80,000 of the NIS 110,000 he borrowed from the organization in 1993, and that he sold his personal car

to the same organization for NIS 20,000 more than the book price. The affair was originally revealed by Yediot Aharonot, and police began an investigation several months ago. Lieberman had been questioned under caution.

Lieberman last night said the report was "nonsense. This is of no interest to me. This is a case they have been handling for three years. I had no idea they would recommend prosecution. In fact I was told they were about to close the file."

He was speaking following an appearance at a large Likud gathering in Ramat Gan. The crowd became aware of the reports during the gathering.

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## NEWS

in brief

### Barak says he would form gov't with Likud

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said yesterday that if he were elected prime minister he would form a broad-based "unity government" with the Likud. "The days of this government are short," Barak told Channel 1. "The moment I am elected prime minister I will form a national unity government with the Likud" and other parties, adding that such a government could get the peace process back on track. AP

### Norway: Probe Mossad in botched killing

Norway has asked Israel to interrogate Mike Harari, an ex-Mossad operative suspected of leading a team of assassins who shot and killed an innocent Moroccan waiter, Ahmed Bouchikhi, in Lillehammer in July 1973. The agents apparently mistook the victim for Hassan Salameh, a PLO intelligence chief suspected of masterminding the killing of 11 athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Five Mossad agents served brief prison terms in connection with the shooting and were pardoned. AP

### Demonstrations erupt against PA

Demonstrations against Palestinian Authority policies on university fees and Hamas prisoners erupted in several towns in the West Bank yesterday. In Ramallah and Nablus, several thousand university students protested the decision by the PA Higher Education Ministry to raise tuition fees. In Hebron, hundreds of Hamas activists demonstrated for the release of Hamas prisoners. This, as Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin asked PA chief Yasser Arafat to release about 100 Hamas detainees rounded up in September after the suicide bombings in Jerusalem. Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib

### Panel to select chief rabbis picked

The Knesset yesterday, in a secret vote, chose five MKs to sit on the body which selects the chief rabbis. The results of the vote threaten to create another coalition crisis because the United Torah Judaism candidate was not elected. Those chosen were Shalom Simhon (Labor), 74 votes; Rafi Edri (Labor), 63; Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur (National Religious Party), 58; Nissim Dahan (Shas), 51; and Alex Lubotzky (Third Way), 48 votes. Members of United Torah Judaism later claimed that a clear promise by Likud whip Meir Sheerit to include a UTJ representative had been violated. Liat Collins

### US wants Israel in UN regional group

The US, in a move welcomed by Israel, has urged the UN's Western European and Others regional group to grant temporary membership to Israel, the only UN member denied a seat in the geographic blocs that nominate candidates for elite UN councils. "The fact that Israel is so commonly a subject of UN decisions, and yet cannot fully share in UN institutions, such as the Security Council, must be redressed," UN Ambassador Dore Gold said yesterday. Israel appreciates the American initiative, he added. There was no word on when the European group might make a final decision. Admission is based on a consensus of the member states. Marilyn Henry

## Three gunmen killed in Lebanon

# Shahak: Syria is studying IDF

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and DAVID RUDGE

Israeli forces have killed between seven and 13 Amal and Hizbullah gunmen in south Lebanon in the past four days, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said yesterday, adding that the Syrians were closely watching Israeli tactics in the guerrilla war.

Three gunmen, believed to be from Hizbullah, were killed or badly wounded by IDF tank fire in the early hours of yesterday morning, the IDF Spokesman said.

"Arab armies, including the Syrians who are our most dangerous enemies, are looking with great

interest at the way the IDF is fighting in Lebanon and are trying to learn from it," Shahak said yesterday at a lecture at Tel Aviv University marking the sixteenth anniversary of the death of Moshe Dayan.

"The lessons the Syrians are deriving from observing our combat in Lebanon," he continued, "are adding deterrence and a Syrian understanding that the IDF has capabilities for which they have no adequate answer. 'I am telling you that the Syrian conclusion is that they are worried about the IDF capabilities,'" Shahak said.

But Shahak also said that the dynamics of the conflict in south Lebanon make it very difficult to

strike at those who carry out attacks, like the squad which attacked Beit Leif village on Sunday.

"We have put great restrictions on ourselves not to take action which would harm civilians," Shahak said. Amal gunmen deliberately shelled Beit Leif village in the security zone on Sunday, apparently in order to cause an escalation that would give an excuse for firing at Galilee communities, security sources told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

Instead, the IDF and the South Lebanese Army, responded with restraint to the shelling, in which eight civilians were killed.

"What happened in Beit Leif village on Sunday was a massacre,"

SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad said in a radio broadcast, adding that he believes the massacre was intentional.

The security sources said the retaliation had been muted in order to prevent the possibility of any civilian casualties north of the zone and, thereby, avoid giving Amal or Hizbullah an excuse to attack Galilee.

The fighting in south Lebanon, however, continued unabated yesterday with heavy exchanges in the western sector that lasted for nearly 14 hours.

Early yesterday morning a tank on operational activities near the northern edge of the security zone

spotted a squad of gunmen moving in the area, the IDF Spokesman said. The tank crew opened fire, hitting the squad and killing two or three of the gunmen.

At the same time, mortars were fired at several SLA positions in the zone's western sector, as well as at a village in the area, without causing any injuries or damage.

The exchanges, which began around 3 a.m., continued until about 5 p.m. with more mortar, antitank missile and light weapons fire at IDF and SLA positions, mainly in the western sector. In one of the incidents, Beit Leif village again came under fire and a resident was wounded.

## Levy alerts French FM to Lebanese danger

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday alerted visiting French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine to the danger that the ongoing hostilities in southern Lebanon could get out of control and threaten regional stability.

"Things could develop that neither side wants," Levy said at a news conference that followed a working lunch.

Vedrine indicated his readiness to help reduce tension through diplomatic contacts with Syria and Lebanon. He also said he was willing to mediate by relating messages between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon.

Vedrine described the talks as "sympathetic, friendly, and fruitful," saying many subjects were discussed. These included the Iraqi crisis and Islamic terrorism.

But he noted that France and its fellow European Union members had several questions about the course of the peace process. He said Levy explained to him that the government is committed to peace and that there is no other way to achieve it besides the route outlined in the Oslo Accords.

Asked about a report that he was carrying a letter criticizing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for sabotaging the negotiations with the



French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine (right) walks down Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda street yesterday with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. (Brian Hessler)

Palestinians, Vedrine said he did not bring any document. Vedrine contended that while Hamas and

Islamic Jihad posed a problem to the Palestinians the dynamism of peacemaking would weaken them.

He dramatized France's repugnance for terrorism and sympathy with its victims by going directly to

the Rehov Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall in Jerusalem, the site of a suicide attack earlier this year.

## Katz accuses Likud rebels of conspiracy against PM

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Likud convention chairman Yisrael Katz yesterday charged the Likud rebels with conspiring against Prime Minister Netanyahu, and demanded an investigation into who was behind "the attempt to destroy the Likud."

Speaking at a large Likud rally in Kfar Hamaccabiah, Katz said that at the next Likud central committee meeting he would propose that any MK who votes against Netanyahu be disqualified from the party's Knesset list and from any position in the party's institutions and local authorities.

Katz said that several months ago, he met with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, "who outlined in detail the conspiracy to get rid of the prime minister. The plan was to organize 12 MKs who would take the Likud's name and form a new party, leaving the prime minister with no post and us without a name."

He said he would see to it that the next central committee resolves to

set up a committee to probe "what happened behind the scenes, and I will give it the information I have about the plot to blow up the Likud convention and destroy the party, so that on its debris they could form a new centrist party."

Katz astonished his audience when he stated unexpectedly: "Despite our grievances, we must admit that in this struggle the media was at our disposal and helped us bring our truth to the public."

At this point the crowd burst into cries of "Keren, Keren," referring to Channel 1 reporter Keren Neubach who was covering the event. No one was more surprised than Neubach, who was attacked by an unruly mob at a pre-election Likud demonstration. She narrowly escaped injury when the rioters tried to overturn a TV broadcasting van on whose roof she had climbed, seeking refuge.

Avigdor Lieberman, who arrived an hour late, was greeted with stormy applause and cheers, and the gathering immediately turned into a support rally for him.

Lieberman gave a long, programmatic speech, boring an audience which was expecting something juicier.

The only time he managed to revive the crowd was when he took a swipe at Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak. "Only the Likud can bring down the Likud. Barak is no rival. I don't think we could have had a more convenient rival."

The talk among the activists focused on Lieberman's resignation and the "hit list" of MKs and ministers he had issued at his earlier press conference. "Those ministers have a good reason to be worried," one activist said.

"That girl [Communications Minister Limor] Livnat, who is she, anyway? I've never seen her at any of the branches," said another.

"We are the ones who bring the voters; we are the ones who put the ministers where they are today. And we will be the ones to decide who gets on the Likud's Knesset list or who gets to be minister," another said. "Nobody can take that right away from us."

## The American dream – Russian style

"Avigdor Lieberman is the Russian version of the American dream," said Alex Lebidsky, an immigrant from Tashkent who owns a tire repair shop on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. "He is a Russian immigrant who made it."

Boy did he make it. Less than 20 years after immigrating from Kishinev, Lieberman, an outsider in an insider's country dominated by connections and networking, had much of the nation hanging on his every word during his feisty, farewell press conference yesterday, following his resignation as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

The Lieberman story is a source of pride for immigrants like Lebidsky.

"Here is a man who came to the country just as I did," Lebidsky said. "He speaks Hebrew just as I do, and he succeeded. It fills me with pride."

As much as Lieberman is admired by many immigrants – he was voted man of the year a few months ago by readers of the Russian-language newspaper Vesti – he has been reviled by the press

and cast in the role of resident bogeyman. Many immigrants see him as a role model; much of the rest of the country sees him as a latter-day Rasputin.

The reason for the gap in perception, Lebidsky said, is easy to explain: "It is similar to a man in a Volvo stuck in traffic who sees another man on a moped pass him by. It creates resentment."

Lebidsky, who openly said he voted for Yisrael Ba'aliya in the last election only because it is a Russian party, said he would vote for Lieberman if he sets up a second Russian political party, this one to the right of Yisrael Ba'aliya. Although Lieberman said yesterday he plans to work inside Likud and has no intention of running for the next Knesset, there has been talk that he is interested in setting up a second Russian political party to challenge Yisrael Ba'aliya leader Nathan Sharansky.

"I voted for Sharansky because he is Russian, not because I

expected anything from him," said Lebidsky. "By the same token, I would now vote for Lieberman. The more the Israelis hate him, the more I love him. I can identify with what he is up against."

Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Yuri Stern, who has been called "Lieberman's man" inside the immigrant party, said that despite Lieberman's power, the immigrants see him as one of them.

Stern said, Lieberman is a doer who has furthered various projects that help the immigrants.

Stern said that Lieberman did not get a fair shake from much of the public, who see in him the embodiment of numerous negative Russian stereotypes. According to Stern, if Lieberman didn't speak with such a heavy Russian accent or was not so identifiable as a Russian immigrant, he would have been viewed more positively.

"He is not the first strong-armed politician on the Israeli scene,"

Stern said.

Stern said that as long as Lieberman stays in the Likud, there is no real danger that he will draw voters from Yisrael Ba'aliya because "immigrants understand the Likud has done nothing for us." But if Lieberman were to start his own party, Stern said, the picture could change.

Ben-Gurion University Prof. Yirmiyahu Branover said that Lieberman has kept up his connection with the Russian-speaking community and that the Russian-language media, both the newspapers and radio, are always full of reports about him.

"The immigrants feel a closeness to him," Branover said. "He has shown concern for the problems immigrants have and they view him as their representative. There is pride that one of them rose to the position of No. 2 in the country."

It is highly unlikely this pride will melt just because Lieberman has changed jobs, meaning that whatever political road he decides to take now, he will not be without a substantial following.

## Lieberman on Likud MKs

By SARAH HOMIG

Avigdor Lieberman yesterday unleashed stinging attacks on those in the Likud he charged with disloyalty. The following is a summary of his main targets and how they were criticized:

• Ze'ev Begin – Lieberman recalled in detail how MK Ze'ev Begin charged that it was Lieberman's machination in the 1993 leadership primary which resulted in Begin's poor showing. He then accused Begin of "haughtiness and aloofness. When the Likud adopted the primaries system, Begin announced with disdain that he will not invest a shkel or a minute in that despicable process...He never visited one Likud branch, never conversed with members, never took time to hear them out or help any of them."

• Limor Livnat – Communications Minister Livnat, he recalled, "got a job at the Construction Center from Ariel Sharon, when he was housing minister...We lost the elections in 1992, not because of the Likud central committee but because of such affairs as took place at the Construction Center." Livnat at the time was embroiled in corruption charges over the

submission of tenders. "These are the people who now preach morality to us, who talk about not sucking up to central committee members," Lieberman continued, alluding to Livnat's speech at the convention.

"They need not suck up to anyone but they can respect the central committee members, and the party rank and file. What the media so enthusiastically lauded as a courageous speech was in effect a speech which sucked up to the press at the expense of the committee activists and the convention."

• Dan Meridor – Lieberman recalled how "Meridor attacked the handling of the Mashal Affair before the Cichanover Commission ever met. Begin and Livnat attacked Netanyahu on the Bar-On Affair. Now they are busy in their attempts to overturn a legitimate, legal convention decision via slander, threats and innuendo...Where were all these maligners when we rescued this party from utter ruin and sure bankruptcy, when the party administration had to face unpaid employees and suppliers, heavy debts to banks, national insurance and the tax authorities? Their contribution to the Likud's rehabilitation was to send in

requests for money."

• Michael Eitan – Science Minister Michael Eitan was taken to task as well, but without having his name mentioned. Eitan had vociferously campaigned for Lieberman's ouster but "pressed hard to be included in the inquiry committee nevertheless. These same people did not want ex-Mossad chief Nahum Admoni to serve in the Cichanover commission because he had previously expressed an opinion. These are the people who protested that the Likud probe would be chaired by head of the party court, Hanna Evenor, a former president of the Tel Aviv district court. The Likud inquiry had to be tailored to fit their measurements precisely."

• David Re'em – MK David Re'em's popularity in the headlines was "the result of negative incentives by the press. This august parliamentarian has not initiated any legislation and his presence in the committees and plenum was not felt. But his every onslaught against the prime minister won him generous headlines and air time. No one would have known him had he not spent his first Knesset term constantly opposing the prime minister of his own party."

## Livnat to hold crucial meeting with Netanyahu

By SARAH HOMIG

The fate of the Likud's in-house uprising against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu might be sealed today when Netanyahu again confers with Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

She may announce whether she is quitting or staying in the government.

Last week Livnat told Netanyahu she was considering whether to resign. When Netanyahu asked her to stay on, Livnat refused to commit herself.

Livnat's decision could be a make-or-break move for the future of Netanyahu's government. If she stays, she will have secured at least a temporary reprieve from Likud challenges against him. But if Livnat quits, she could set in motion an irreversible domino effect, which Netanyahu would prefer to avoid.

Livnat's own situation is more complex. If she moves now, she may find herself left out in the cold, bereft of any influence. The betting in the Likud is that Livnat will hang on in the Netanyahu cabinet, for a while at least.

But this was not certain last night.

Livnat was said to be unhappy with the attack made on her yesterday by Avigdor Lieberman, who has resigned as director-general of Netanyahu's office.

Livnat refused to comment last night, but a source close to her said that she has no doubt that Netanyahu shares Lieberman's opinions of her, even if Lieberman did not speak with Netanyahu's blessing.

Another annoyance to Livnat is the further West Bank pullback being considered by Netanyahu.

Livnat staunchly opposes another redeployment and has noted Netanyahu's commitment not to turn over any more territory to the Palestinian Authority unless it works to eradicate terrorist infrastructure.

In Livnat's view, Netanyahu seems poised to act in contradiction to a cabinet decision. She plans to speak out forcefully

against this.

The source added that it was not inconceivable that Livnat may seize on the redeployment issue as a pretext for resigning from the government.

Members of the Knesset's Eretz Yisrael lobby met Livnat yesterday to implore her not to leave the government, where, they argued, she could serve as a bulwark against further territorial concessions.

The anti-Netanyahu activists are on different sides of the Likud divide so far as redeployment is concerned. Unequivocally opposed to a pullback are Livnat and MKs Ze'ev Begin and David Re'em, while MK Dan Meridor and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo are in favor.

Meanwhile, the committee appointed to probe the recent Likud convention will hold its first session on Thursday.



Limor Livnat

## PM: We will not abandon the Gush

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised yesterday to further develop Gush Etzion, pledging "we will never again abandon" the area.

"Gush Etzion has been vital for the people and the country since it was founded 70 years ago," Netanyahu told the Knesset plenum, in answer to seven agenda items marking the 30th anniversary since renewed settlement of the Gush Etzion bloc.

"We will continue to develop Gush Etzion with its 20,000 residents from Neveh Daniel in the north to Karmel Tzur in the south; from Betar in the west to Tekoa and Nokdim in the east."

The original Gush Etzion bloc fell in the Independence War. It was rebuilt after Israel recaptured the area in the Six-Day War.

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) raised an uproar with a suggestion that Gush Etzion, which is in the West Bank, be handed over as part of a peace settlement with the Palestinians.

Kleiner: We'll Netanyahu if...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...

Health Ministry attack...





## Clean sailing

JNF Director Moshe Rivlin (left), Hadera Mayor Nehemia Lahav (second from left) and Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen go for a ride yesterday at the inauguration of a park in Hadera. The JNF invested NIS 30 million and four years of work in converting the Hadera River from an ecological problem into a recreation site. (Ariel Jozoviznik)

## Janner: World must open files on Nazi gold

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The nations of the world must open their archives and enable the international community to find out how much gold the Nazis looted from their respective treasuries as well as from their doomed Jewish communities, Lord Janner of Braintree said yesterday with respect to the Nazi gold conference opening in London next Tuesday.

He spoke to a World Jewish Congress gathering here which was attended by several ambassadors whose countries are directly interested in this issue, among them Switzerland, Great Britain and Portugal.

"This would make it possible to obtain details of what happened to the Nazi gold," the newly named British peer went on, "and then make it possible to find out about other precious assets stolen by the Nazis."

Accusing Russia of "not being very keen" about the London conference which it may reluctantly attend, the former Labor member

of the House of Commons, then known as Greville Janner, referred to works of art stolen by the Nazis from their Jewish owners and then confiscated by the Red Army as it advanced to Berlin.

Janner rejected a Russian diplomat's argument that these were "the spoils of war."

He praised the United Kingdom's foreign secretary, Robin Cook, for having kept a pre-election promise to convene a gold conference if his party won the election. It did and as a result Cook will chair the conference next week.

Janner has been spearheading an effort to set up a fund for Holocaust survivors which would be drawn from the \$60 million worth of gold the Nazis seized from private Jews.

He described the terms worked out by the tripartite gold commission consisting of the US, the United Kingdom and France as "a despicable agreement."

Among the facts learned from recently released American documents was that the British knew

about the movement of Nazi gold to Switzerland and other neutral states - Sweden, Spain, Portugal and Turkey.

"This is not purely a Swiss problem," Janner said.

But Alan Hevesi, the City of New York's comptroller, who also spoke at the WJC event, said the Swiss must be forthcoming in dealing with the gold problem. Hevesi has cited instances of crass antisemitism by a major Swiss bank official in a newsletter he has been publishing on Switzerland's financial conduct during World War II.

He also has organized a special conference on this subject scheduled for December 8 in New York.

Asked why the United Nations never was asked to deal with this problem, Janner said "that is a lovely idea" which never occurred to him.

At that, Israel's former ambassador to the Court of St. James, Gershon Avner, said to turn to the UN would be tantamount to asking for trouble.

## Kleiner: We'll bring down Netanyahu if he redeploys

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud), head of the Land of Israel Front caucus, yesterday warned Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu against giving in to what he described as US demands on further redeployment. At the end of a stormy four-hour meeting, the caucus stated it would topple the government if it decided to hand over additional territories to the PA.

Netanyahu had originally spoken of a withdrawal of one to two percent, Kleiner said. "And now he is talking about much more. It is surrendering to brutal American pressure."

"[US] President [Bill] Clinton might know the meaning of the word *haver*, friend, [which he used to describe Yitzhak Rabin], but he doesn't know the meaning of the word *chutzpa*," he said. "It

is really chutzpa to demand the prime minister of Israel go against his platform and endanger the security of the State of Israel by giving away lands crucial to the defense of the country under an agreement in which we get nothing while the Palestinians continue to violate it in every way."

Kleiner warned that the caucus has more than the number of MKs needed to bring the government down, together with the opposition. He said the caucus would topple the government in a regular no-confidence motion if necessary and not in a specific one on the withdrawal.

"If Netanyahu can not stand up to the pressure of the US and the Third Way, he should be toppled," he said.

He said for the peace process to continue, the Palestinians need to start abiding by the commitments made under the Hebron agree-

ment.

Third Way whip Yehuda Harel said his party supports a large redeployment, which is in keeping with the Third Way's idea of "peacefully separating from the Palestinians." The Third Way is continuing to push for a national unity government.

Meanwhile, leaders from the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza spent yesterday meeting with right-wing MKs seeking to strengthen their lobby and clarify the government's decision regarding redeployment.

Plans to fight further redeployment were kept under wraps, but leaders stressed that if Netanyahu goes ahead with the next phase of redeployment he will counter opposition, and not just within the Knesset.

Margot Dukkevitch contributed to this report.

## Netanyahu testifies on Mashaal Affair

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday gave evidence to the Knesset subcommittee on secret services, which is investigating the Mashaal Affair alongside the Ciechanover clarification committee.

Netanyahu met with the subcommittee for more than three hours. The subcommittee, which works under the Knesset Foreign Affairs

and Defense Committee, is expected to conclude its inquiry shortly.

This was Netanyahu's second meeting on the subject with the subcommittee. The members have been warned by chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) against talking to reporters, and Netanyahu uncharacteristically also refused to talk to reporters when he left the committee room.

He apparently did not provide any new material despite the inten-

sive questioning.

The committee hopes to issue a concluding statement at the end of its discussions which will be acceptable to all six members. It has apparently not found any major discrepancies in the different statements presented and is focusing on two main aspects: the operational issues involved in the affair in Amman and the decision-making process which preceded it. There was no drama in

Netanyahu's appearance, and the MKs were acutely aware that the main story was not taking place in the House at all. Shortly before 1 p.m., MK Gideon Ezra suggested ending the discussions so that the committee members could listen to the live broadcast of the press conference with Avigdor Lieberman, who resigned as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. Netanyahu reportedly just smiled at the idea.

## Labor welcomes Yehezkel back after acquittal

By LIAT COLLINS

Avi Yehezkel received a hero's welcome at yesterday's Labor Knesset faction meeting, but soon rebuked his colleagues for displaying their affection for him only after he was fully acquitted. After a three-year trial, a court on Sunday found him not guilty of fraud and breach of trust relating to the use of Histadrut funds in the Labor primary election campaign.

Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen congratulated Yehezkel and said he was "pleased justice was done." Party chairman Ehud Barak opened a bottle of wine to celebrate.

Yehezkel, who fainted in court when he was cleared, told the Labor MKs: "These were three difficult years for me and my family. I learned not a little about friendship and politics. And we have room for improvement in this department. There were not a few in the faction who tried to wipe out Avi Yehezkel," he said. "The Labor

party must learn that we need to show each other friendship."

Most of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on immigrant absorption, initiated by MK Sofa Landver. Landver said the Russian immigrants "have joined the list of those disappointed in [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu" following the resignation of Avigdor Lieberman.

Barak said he hoped Labor

would become the political home of new immigrants.

"One shouldn't forget that there are another two to three million Jews who should be brought to Israel," said Shimon Peres.

Adisu Massala said Ethiopian immigrants have socio-economic problems which should be solved and described the educational situation regarding the Ethiopian immigrants as "catastrophic."

At the end of the meeting, the faction issued a statement on absorption issues.

The party said it considers the integration of immigrants from all countries of utmost importance; promised a Labor-led government would try to find solutions to immigrants' housing and employment problems; and recommends integrating them in Labor Party institutions and the Histadrut.

## Health Ministry cracks down on scam

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry said yesterday it was organizing a campaign to permit cancellation of membership in a health fund in cases where the subscriber was tricked into joining.

There have reportedly been thousands of complaints of telemarketers goading people - some-

times by promising gifts - into signing forms to switch their health fund membership.

In some cases, signatures have been forged without the individual being made aware that he is switching funds.

To return to one's original health fund, one must sign a written statement and either mail or fax it to the following address: Dr. Karli

Rubin-Jabotinsky, the Health Ministry's ombudsman, at POB 1176, Jerusalem, 91010, or fax (02) 6714308.

The ministry will accept such applications until December 2, which is next week.

After January 1, health fund membership can be switched only by filing a form at a Postal Bank.

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

### Stepping down

The resignation of Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman "is the beginning of the collapse of the Netanyahu government," claims Ma'ariv's Shalom Kadmon. "Bibi without Yvet is like an Yvet without Bibi; Bibi without Yvet is like an Yvet without Bibi."

Kadmon believes that while Lieberman's departure may improve Netanyahu's status in the Likud, he is actually abandoning him as prime minister.

Yediot Aharonot's Nahum Barnea asserts that the resignation reflects distress: "It's not a knock out but a hard blow for both men." However, Barnea adds that Lieberman has freed himself from the constraints of public service and his close link to Netanyahu and now he would be able to "openly nurture the Yvet camp."

Yossi Venter of Ha'aretz says Netanyahu is in distress. "Lieberman was the only one whose advice had some weight, even though it did entangle Netanyahu in some scandals." Ma'ariv's Shalom Kadmon states that if the resignation was coordinated between the two men, then it will not change anything. "Lieberman will continue to regulate Netanyahu's political agenda from the outside."

"By leaving, Lieberman handed the rebellious ministers an opportunity to return to Netanyahu, without seeming... like mice returning to a sinking ship," writes Ha'aretz's Akiva Eldad.

### General pardon

Suggestions for an amnesty made by Yitzhak Moda'i, who is in charge of organizing the country's 50th anniversary celebrations, stirred extensive commentary.

Mati Golan in Yediot stresses the

significance of amnesty as an institution, while noting that the measure can be exploited for the sake of freeing public figures from jail. "We must not spill the amnesty baby with the squalid bath water of politics," he writes, "what we should do is ask the politicians to leave this issue alone, in order to avoid bringing damage to this significant and humane institution."

"A general pardon would be an inconceivable offense to the legal system and its validity is doubtful, Ha'aretz editorializes. "Those who act for those seeking a general amnesty, are interested in [obtaining] personal amnesty for those who have sent them."

### Shaky ties

Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to Britain and the US has also prompted some analysis of Israeli ties with the international community.

According to Ma'ariv's Chemi Shalev "we have had prime ministers before who were unpopular, but no one has become such a universal punching bag like Binyamin Netanyahu." He adds that US President Bill Clinton's hesitation to meet Netanyahu, "directly reflects upon his [Netanyahu's] status before the international community."

Writing in Yediot, Yossi Ben Aharon, who was an advisor to former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, claims that because a right wing party is in power, it is simple to "lay the blame for the collapse of the peace dream on Netanyahu's shoulders." He adds that the disappointment of American officials with Netanyahu's policies is still far from an attack on the government. "Years of experience have shown that if the Israeli Prime Minister is convinced and set in his ways, the American government will find a way to meet him halfway."

"Opposite Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prime Minister [Netanyahu] stood without the backing of a government, suffering from a lack of credibility," writes Ma'ariv's Shalom Kadmon, who adds that this might have done serious damage to vital state interests.

November 29

"It is likely that in the days leading up to the November 29," the

50th anniversary of the UN decision to partition Palestine, leading to the birth of a Jewish state, "Hizbullah and Amal... will accelerate their actions," writes Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid in response to the latest violence in Lebanon, which claimed the lives of eight Lebanese citizens.

"The frustration caused by the accumulation of the freezing of the peace process, Arafat's deteriorating health and the opening of the 50th anniversary celebrations in Israel, create tension that might explode any day," he writes.

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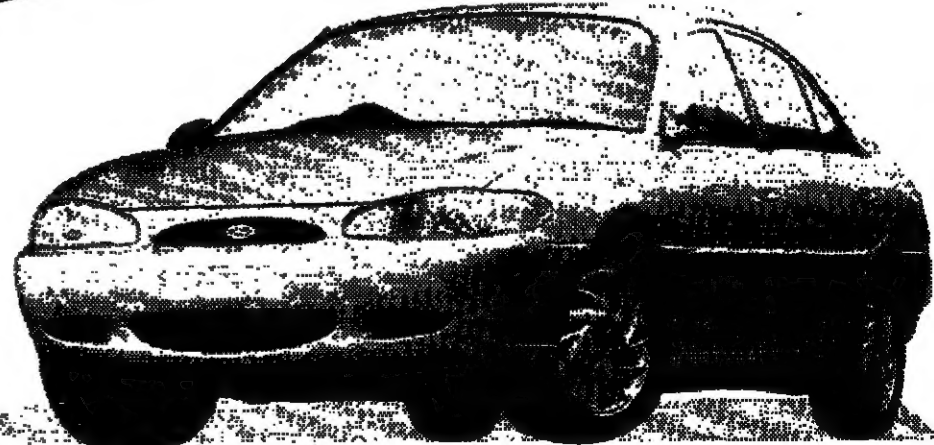
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## NEWS

in brief

### IMA sanctions shut clinics and operating rooms

Outpatient clinics and diagnostic institutes in public hospitals from Petah Tikva northward (except for Laniado in Netanya) will be closed today, while operating rooms south of Petah Tikva will perform only emergency operations. The sanctions are part of a series launched 11 weeks ago by the Israel Medical Association in protest over the Finance Ministry's refusal to fund 360 additional doctors' slots in public hospitals. IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said it was up to the state and other employers to bring an end to the sanctions. *Judy Siegel*

### Pinochet visit draws fire

The local Simon Wiesenthal Center on Sunday called for the cancellation of the prospective visit of former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet because of his refusal to hand over Nazi war criminal Walter Rauff to Germany where he was to have been put on trial. In letters to President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and other government leaders, center director Efraim Zuroff said it would be immoral for Israel to play host to a man "who caused so much damage, sorrow and pain to Jews." Zuroff also cited Pinochet's "terrible human rights record." Rauff, who died in 1984, introduced the gas vans in which hundreds of thousands of Jews were murdered in the Chelmo death camp and in various parts of the former USSR and Yugoslavia. *Jay Bushinsky*

### Poraz petitions Court against ETV appointment

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui-Meretz) yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's appointing Moti Sikler to head Educational TV without issuing a tender. Such a move makes the head of ETV dependent on the education minister, Poraz claimed, and could lead the ETV director to compromise professional standards for political reasons. *Itim*

### Hungary to launch Israeli-produced satellite

The successful launch earlier this year of the Amos communications satellite has made it possible for Hungary to commission the launch of its own satellite, an Amos-clone called MagyarSat, which will be produced by Israel Aircraft Industries. This was announced yesterday by Communications Minister Limor Livnat at a meeting with her counterpart, Dr. Karoly Lutz, who is heading a 14-member delegation visiting Israel. The two ministers discussed ways of increasing cooperation and expanding the activities of Israeli companies in the Hungarian telecommunications market. It also was agreed to issue a joint Israeli-Hungarian stamp. *Judy Siegel*

### Weather service won't be privatized

Transport Ministry Director-General Nahum Langenthal decided yesterday not to privatize the Meteorological Services in Beit Dagan. At a meeting of the Knesset Science and Technology Committee, headed by Dalia Itzik, Langenthal said he was persuaded that privatization of the weather services except for aviation forecasts and other functions - is not a good idea. *Judy Siegel*

# Airport not ready for year 2000

Ben-Gurion Airport is equipped to handle fewer than 2.5 million foreign visitors a year, but some 4 million are expected in 2000, the committee responsible for the "Israel 2000" program said at a press conference yesterday. The program, a cooperative effort by the Treasury and the Ministry of Tourism, was initiated to suggest solutions for problems presented by the expected arrival of millions of pilgrims and other visitors for the millennium. The minimum number expected

- in a case in which the security situation is difficult - is 2 million, experts said. The maximum number - should the pope announce he is coming or there be real progress in the peace process - is 5.5 million.

The committee noted that without prompt action, the entire tourism infrastructure is liable to collapse under the weight of the number of visitors.

It pointed out several specific problems besides the airport, such as the lack of parking in

Jerusalem's Old City, in Nazareth, and at sites along the northern Kinneret, all Christian tourist attractions. It also noted the lack of facilities, including security arrangements, at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and other churches.

The committee, which presented its report to Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, recommended that at crowded sites, the infrastructure - such as parking facilities and access paths - be increased and visit-

ing hours be extended. It also suggested that urban bed-and-breakfasts and nearby kibbutzim be used to alleviate an expected shortage of hotel rooms, especially in Jerusalem and the Kinneret.

Katsav reinforced the panel's following recommendations:

- The report be brought before the cabinet within two weeks;
- The Tourism Ministry be responsible for preparations for 2000;
- The Tourism Ministry and the

Treasury be responsible for anything requiring coordination between ministries;

• The director-general of the Tourism Ministry head an inter-ministerial directors-general committee;

• The cabinet approve the creation of a "2000 Administration" as the body to oversee preparations next year and in 1999;

• The Tourism Ministry request a budget for preparations of NIS 240 million over the next three years. (Itim)

## Peled to meet Maccabiah victims in Australia

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled has agreed to President Ezer Weizman's request to head a delegation of Israeli officials which will meet with victims of the Maccabiah bridge disaster in Australia.

A spokesman for Peled said last night that he would travel to Australia during December as the head of a delegation which would likely include a representative from the President's Office, a Foreign Ministry representative and perhaps a police official as well.

The Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee recently recommended that such a delegation be sent to Australia to help explain the situation regarding the investigation into the bridge collapse to the victims and their families.

The move also was recommended to help offset growing anti-Israel feeling in the Australian Jewish community, reflected in a drop in contributions and a reduction in the

number of Australian Jewish youngsters coming to Israel to visit.

The condition of Sasha Elterman, the young tennis player injured in the accident who has been in extremely serious condition, continues to improve. Elterman was visited by Ambassador Colette Avital recently and was allowed out of the hospital to travel briefly with her parents.

The improvement in her condition coincided with the arrival of Maccabiah medals sent to her by Israeli athletes, and she continues to receive dozens of letters from Israeli well-wishers.

Yesterday a delegation of 80 high school pupils from Australia held a memorial ceremony at the Ramat Gan stadium where the bridge collapsed.

Israel Radio reported that among those participating were four pupils who were in the Australian Maccabiah delegation and were at the scene of the accident. The pupils, from the Moriah School in Sydney, looked shocked and saddened as they viewed the scene, many of them crying.



Moshe Peled  
(Ariel Jerolimski)

## MKs oppose general amnesty

By LIAT COLLINS

Several MKs yesterday noted their opposition to the idea of a general amnesty for the state's 50th anniversary.

Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) reiterated his opposition to a sweeping amnesty. "The jubilee year should be marked by acts of justice and law and democracy. An amnesty goes against law and justice as it says a criminal will not be punished. It also lowers the deterrent factor. Why give prizes to criminals in the jubilee year?"

Moshe Shaleh (Labor), a former police minister, said he has consistently opposed the idea of a general or limited amnesty. Shaleh said it is more important

to start placing emphasis on the successful rehabilitation of offenders.

He also said that it is "unfair, uneducational, and against society's best interests to release those who are mainly white-collar offenders."

He said there is no reason to replace the current parole boards which check each case individually, and if new committees are established for a general amnesty, they will be put under considerable pressure by interested groups.

Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) said his party objects to the amnesty proposal and sees the president as the only authority able to grant amnesty. Lubotzky, however, said an independent, balanced public body could be established to recommend the president grant individual pardons to certain offenders.

## Branover urged to run for president

By HERS KENON

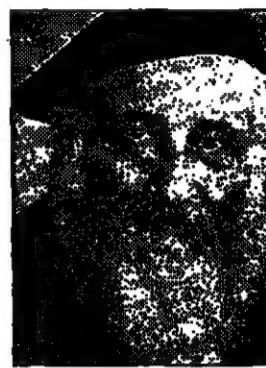
Ben-Gurion University Prof. Yirmiyahu Branover is being touted by the Jewish Leadership Movement as a possible candidate to challenge Ezer Weizman in next year's presidential election in the Knesset.

The group, which a month ago tried to run Talmud scholar Adin Steinsaltz as a candidate, approached Branover, a respected scientist who immigrated from Russia in the 1970s after Steinsaltz turned them down.

Branover, a professor of magnetohydrodynamics, founder of SHAMIR - the Association of Religious Scientists and

Professionals from the CIS, and a long-time activist on immigrant affairs, confirmed that he was approached about the matter. "I am honored by the suggestion, and it is something that should be considered," Branover said.

The Jewish Leadership Movement, established by Benjamin Netanyahu's brother-in-law Hagai Ben-Atzi earlier this year, aims at creating leadership with a "distinctively Jewish" outlook that could appeal both to the political Right and Left. The group, whose leadership is decidedly right-wing, is planning to hold a meeting in the near future to draw up plans on how to push Branover's candidacy. The movement is also considering drafting a candidate to run



Yirmiyahu Branover  
(Willy Pfister)

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for prime minister.

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סוכן מן הארץ





Visiting the wounded

President Ezer Weizman visits with Binyamin Dil, the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva student who was wounded by terrorists in the Old City of Jerusalem last week. Dil is at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, where he underwent surgery and is to have a bone transplant and dental reconstruction. Dil told the president yesterday that he was due to enter a pilot's course today, and added that he hopes he would still be admitted when he recovers. Weizman, a former chief of the air force, said a pilot has to be able to speak clearly, but he is sure the doctors would fix Dil up so he could do so.

(Photo: Avi Hayoun; Text: Judy Siegel)

## Court upholds right to try mutineers

Finding that the rebellion staged at Military Prison No. 6 was an "intolerable" affront to army discipline, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the IDF is entitled to try the troops involved.

A three-justice panel rejected the appeals filed by soldiers who wanted to force the army to stick to a promise not to put them on trial made when the revolt was ended.

Eighteen soldiers were indicted in September by a military tribunal on charges of mutiny, in connection with the August 9 revolt. The charge carries a maximum 15-year prison term.

Justices Theodor Or, Dalia Dorner, and Ya'acov Turkel saw no reason to intervene with the military's decision, although they

criticized the poor jailhouse conditions which led to the revolt.

Soldiers complained of humiliation and difficult physical conditions as their motive for locking up nine guards. The guards were released only after the troops were promised that they would not be punished for the rebellion.

After being indicted, the soldiers appealed, arguing that the army's failure to abide by the agreement could undermine credibility and make it difficult to quell future mutinies by non-violent means.

The state responded that its only goal in reaching the agreement was to bring about a peaceful end to the mutiny that would avoid casualties. It felt that the accord could be abrogated since it was signed under duress.

In his decision, Or wrote that "a situation in which soldiers join hands in the use of force against a commander, and do so in flagrant violation of orders, is an intolerable situation in any military organization."

He added that "nobody disagrees that the physical conditions of the jail, housed in an old building from the British Mandate era, are difficult." He suggested that these conditions may also be in violation of basic civil rights.

Turkel urged commanders to heed complaints about prison conditions, and to weigh these complaints when trying the soldiers. But he noted that the rebels could have aired their grievances by legal means instead of resorting to violence. (Ilu)

## Knesset hears conflicting sounds of Oriental music

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Dissonant tones about the state of Oriental music in Israel today were heard during yesterday's Knesset Education Committee meeting on the subject.

The session, attended by interested parties ranging from senior Broadcasting Authority figures to managers of Oriental musicians, investigated just how far the nation has come in improving the exposure of Israelis to this kind of music, after a similar session was held last year.

The committee heard that while Radio Three's move to an all-Israeli music format and the burgeoning of regional radio stations has helped accomplish this, Oriental music is still not receiving the funding or

exposure it should as an integral part of Israeli culture.

According to Ayelet Ben-Zvi Levy, who does research for the "Mass Hakaseh Hamizrahi" radio program, most Oriental music played on Israel and Army Radio "was presented in various 'frameworks,' not as part of their regular musical offerings. This simply isn't fair. If these songs aren't fitting to be played on such shows, and they reflect my culture, then are people like me also not fitting to appear on such programs?"

Ben-Zvi-Levy said that attempts to keep Oriental music off the air by those producing or editing radio programs was "taking Israelis' Oriental character away from them."

Broadcasting Authority Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum

said that while it was important to widen exposure to Oriental music, the solution "is not to bring a sword and fire people. It's an evolutionary process. Something is happening to our culture. But I don't want us to end up either with Oriental or Ashkenazi culture, but rather one Israeli culture under which we all will live."

Israel Radio Director Amnon Nadav said that some of the protests he had heard regarding this issue smack of demagoguery, but admitted "there is still much to be done." The changeover to purely Israeli music on Radio Three "changed the situation completely," he said, adding that Israel Radio was running courses for its personnel to increase their sensitivity to this issue.

## MKs: Give gas masks to tourists and foreign workers

By LIAT COLLINS

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday that foreign workers and tourists are not eligible to receive gas masks kits and suggested legislation be prepared to oblige employers to provide their workers with them.

Committee Chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) is demanding foreign workers receive the kits. Katz also warned there are differences in the conditions of shelters in schools and suggested the Education Ministry and defense establishment set up strict criteria on the subject.

Brig.-Gen. Avraham Bachar, from the Home Front

Command, said that under emergency conditions gas masks kits could be distributed to all residents within a short period.

He said there is a discrepancy between the number of shelters in Arab villages compared to the Jewish sector, because the law requiring shelters in housing was passed in 1964 and most of the villages were built before that. He said that in all other respects there are no differences between the protection afforded the Jewish and Arab populations.

Dr. Yitzhak Ravid, a researcher with Rafael told the committee that huge investment by the state into protective measures for the civilian population is unjustified and stems mainly from psychological needs.

## Day of protest

Local women's groups are joining their counterparts around the world today to demand an end to domestic violence.

The Israel Women's Network, Kol Ha'isha and the Linda Feldman Rape Crisis Center are sponsoring a series of events in Jerusalem this afternoon to mark the International Day Against Violence Against Women.

WIZO also is kicking off a public relations campaign against domestic violence entitled, "Don't just throw up your hands, end violence." The campaign, which begins today, will involve the president, prime minister and other public figures. (Jerusalem Post Staff)

## Government to review recommendations for minimum sentences for sex offenders

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The government will respond within two months to recommendations made yesterday by a commission the Justice Ministry appointed to look into whether minimum sentences should be set for sex crimes and domestic violence, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told the Knesset Law Committee.

The minimum sentences would become law if a bill presented by Law Committee members Dedi Zucker (Meretz) and Yael Dayan (Labor) is approved. Their bill already has passed its first reading. Zucker and Dayan acted after a series of cases in which sex offenders received light sentences.

Representatives for the National Council for the Child distributed material at the session detailing some sentences handed down recently in such cases. These include a 15-year-old babysitter who sodomized a three-year-old boy and got 400 hours' public service; a soldier who sodomized a 15-year-old neighbor and got six months'

public service; a man who physically and sexually abused his 5- and 7-year-old daughters and got a year in prison; and a man who molested a 13-year-old girl and got six months' suspended sentence.

Hanegbi said "the current situation is unacceptable" and some form of legislation on the matter is necessary. Zucker and Dayan served as "triggers" in promoting action on this subject, he said, adding that the Ministerial Law Committee would examine the recommendations in the report, as would other relevant ministries.

The Justice Ministry commission, headed by Supreme Court Justice Eliezer Goldberg, reached a majority opinion saying that sentencing in such cases should remain in the hands of the judge, so that the legislative branch should not be seen as undermining the judicial branch's ability to properly decide such matters. They also claimed that minimum sentences did not always serve as a deterrent. One minority opinion favored setting minimum sen-

tences, while another minority within the commission supported leaving the decision on sentencing to the judges, but forming recommended sentences for them to consult.

Dayan and Zucker rejected the notion that legislators not be allowed to set minimum sentences. Dayan said she and Zucker had been accused of "populism" in backing the bill, but said that "while we are talking here about abstract matters, I can show you examples of cases" where sexual offenders had gotten off with minimal sentences. Zucker said the commission should have included representatives from other disciplines besides the legal community.

Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (NRP), Ruby Rivlin (Likud) and Moshe Shahal (Labor) all agreed with the commission's recommendation to leave the considerations in sentencing with the judges. Within two months, the committee will resume discussing the matter.

## Shas: Remove Dana International from Eurovision Song Contest

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri is demanding that Dana International, the popular transsexual singer, be removed as Israel's representative for next year's Eurovision Contest.

Benizri said undergoing a sex change is "worse than an act of sodomy. The Eurovision Song Contest interests me about as much as the weather in Antarctica, but as a son of the Jewish people it offends me," Benizri told Israel Radio yesterday.

"The Jews are supposed to be a light unto the nations, but this is a message of darkness."

The song, entitled "Diva," was chosen from 33 entries. The chairman of the selection committee, Gil Samsonov, said it was "far and away the best." Samsonov, who is a publicity agent, said the fact that the singer

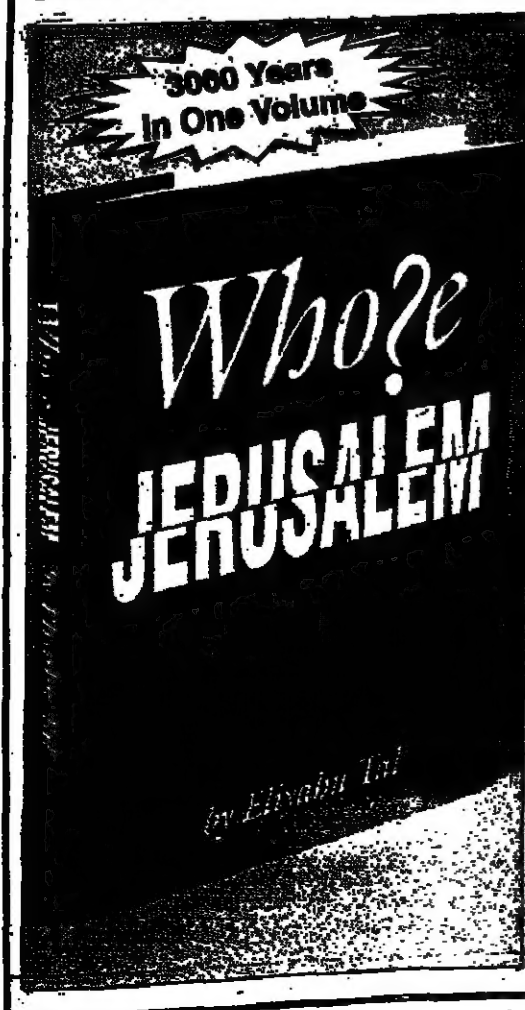


Dana International

is transsexual may even be an advantage in drawing attention.

"We should be seen as a liberal, free country that chooses songs on their merits, not on the basis of the body of the man - or woman - [who is singing them]." (AP)

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# The Barbie backlash

Collectors feel betrayed by the new politically correct proportions of the world's most famous doll

By SUE ZEIDLER

LOS ANGELES — Barbie's new body may be more politically correct than the bombshell proportions of her past, but her most devoted fans feel, well, a bit betrayed.

The announcement last week that the world's most famous doll would have breast reduction surgery and a facelift has sparked a backlash by Barbie collectors and devotees.

"I think the backlash is due to confusion and there's really no reason for anybody to get their panties in a twist," said Joe Blitman, owner of a Los Angeles-based mail order business that sells vintage Barbies to thousands of customers around the world.

Blitman said certain die-hard collectors fear Mattel Inc., the maker of Barbie, will stop making the voluptuous version of the plastic princess altogether in favor of the new body that features a smaller chest, thicker waist and narrower hips — all features designed to make her look more like the girl next door than a blonde bombshell.

"If Mattel replaced the old one altogether, there would be total uproar among adult collectors because they like the body she has now," Blitman said.

Mattel, in fact, has no intention of discontinuing the look that brought it \$1.6 billion in sales in 1996.

Of 24 new Barbies to be unveiled in 1998, six will have the new face, which is more youthful and less made up than the old Barbie, and only one will have the new body.

The rest will be "classic" wide-eyed

toothy-grinned Barbies with the exaggerated proportions that have titillated collectors and fans for years, while infuriating feminists who feel her superhuman body sets impossible standards of beauty.

If the vintage Barbie were blown up to lifelike proportions, her measurements would be 38-18-34.

It may not be humanly possible, but collectors say no body wears clothes better.

"By going to the equivalent of an 18-inch waist, clothing fits better. I don't think collectors will like a wider waist

**Barbie: No longer a dream doll, Page 12**

because clothing won't hang the same way," said Blitman.

Both Blitman and Priscilla Wardlow, a Los Angeles-based collector and owner of hundreds of Barbies, said the doll's latest makeover has sparked an Internet debate.

"I sew and I crochet Barbie-size clothes. The patterns I use most likely won't fit the new body. I hope they have the new body and the old body still for us set in our ways," wrote one fan to a Barbie club on American Online.

"This new idea from Mattel is the stupidest yet," wrote another.

THERE ARE two different camps among collectors, said Wardlow.

"One camp says that Barbie has always been one way and should never

change, while another camp feels she can be anything she wants to be," she said.

Barbie has actually been modified several times since she first arrived in 1959 with a look considered sophisticated at the time, with sultry pouty lips and downcast eyes.

Her most drastic transformation came in 1977 when she got her "superstar" wide-eyed toothy-grinned face that has launched billions of dollars in purchases.

Barbie seems to cause a stir everywhere these days.

Danish band Aqua's controversial, sexy portrayal of the world's most famous doll in their song "Barbie Girl" has sent the Danish unknowns soaring up world record sales charts and triggered a lawsuit by Mattel, which was outraged by the lyrics.

In September, Mattel sued Seagram Co. Ltd.'s MCA Records, saying the use of the name Barbie was unauthorized, while the lyrics were sexually suggestive and did not conform with the doll's image.

Barbie is also the center of yet another controversy involving the Puerto Rican community.

It seems that Puerto Rican Barbie, which is a slightly ethnic version of the doll with long, brown hair, light brown skin and a long ruffled dress, has insulted a few folks.

"I first saw the Puerto Rican Barbie and was proud at seeing my culture being recognized...but then I took a second look and came to the conclusion it's an insult to my identity as a Puerto Rican," wrote an on-line subscriber to the Web site for the Institute for Puerto



Olympic Ice Skater Barbie will be replaced by a more realistic, less made-up Barbie. (AP)

Rican Policy, in New York.

Angelo Falcon, a spokesman for the Institute, said he was surprised by the outpouring of emotion that resulted after the Institute posted on its Web site the text from the doll's box.

"Some people objected to Mattel's depiction of the island's history because it ignores the indigenous population," Falcon said. "There was a wide range of opinion with a lot of people being flattered by the doll to some feel-

ing it was a gigantic imperialistic plot to destroy Puerto Rican culture." Mattel began introducing a line of Barbies from other cultures in 1980. Puerto Rican Barbie was introduced this year. (Reuters)

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## Poles apart

For struggling Ukrainians, the road to prosperity leads to Poland

By CHRISTINE SPOLAR

LVIV, Ukraine — The road to prosperity for Yuriy Banakh seems predictable enough. Every few weeks, the flour importer-freezer salesman-cable supplier drives a couple of hours west to that European powerhouse, Poland.

Poland? "I'd like to make something with my life, so I'm always trying to learn. And I think we can learn a lot from the Poles," said Banakh, 27, as he chugged away in a dozen-year-old Lada toward a border that divides not only two countries but two cultures.

"Not only did they find their way in the world, but their government helped people — and looked for a way to make the economy work for them."

Once the region's economic basket case, Poland's stable democracy and flourishing free market make it a leading success story. Now Polish strategies have become lessons and lore for its populous, strategically significant southeastern neighbor.

Ukrainians are flocking to the Polish border in record numbers — plunking down \$463 million last year, a fourfold increase since 1994 — looking for deals and desperate to make themselves masters of their economic fate.

A couple of years ago, 60 cars a day pulled up to customs booths outside the village of Rava-Ruska, west of Lviv. Today, motorists like Banakh pack picnic crates of sausage and tea, sustenance for what can be a four-day wait to cross the border.

No one imagines this trade, steady on both sides, drying up. Visa requirements recently were dropped. One new border crossing opened this month; two more are expected within the year.

"When Ukrainians talk about America, it's like they're talking about another galaxy," said Yuriy Yekhanurov, chairman of a state committee to develop Ukrainian entrepreneurs. "But when they talk about Poland, they see a neighbor and someone who, not so long ago, was not so different from them. They're looking to see how [Poland] made it."

AS THE West considers expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, this former Soviet republic — whose population, at 52 million, rivals the combined total of the three NATO aspirants — rises up as a vast new frontier.

If a democratic and healthy Poland is a security asset to today's Europe, a free but economically unsteady Ukraine poses a security question.

Poland's turn toward the free market is now legend. Two years after a radical economic reform program was put in place in 1990, the economy began to grow. Today, its gross domestic product is increasing at an annual rate of more than 6 percent.

Ukraine's steps since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 have been far more unsteady. The latest report by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development shows free-market reform at a standstill.

Ukraine's economic growth rate last year was a double-digit negative. A new study by Western economists finds evidence of what might be a quiet turnaround — tiny jumps in consumer spending in a country where the average monthly salary hovers around \$80 — that lends some hope.

Ukraine's lagging business class — 10% of its working population in small business compared to 70% in Western countries and 45% in Poland, according to European bank data — has been targeted for a trilateral project involving the United States, Ukraine and Poland.

US officials are keen to promote the cross-fertilization of ideas to Ukraine, the third-largest recipient of US foreign aid. Building on grass-roots exchanges between the neighbors, the US Agency for International Development has begun shuttling experts between Kiev and Warsaw to build workaday rapport.

BUT UKRAINIAN businessmen who move between the two countries often complain that much of their time is spent trying to work around their country's stranglehold of state regulations and shakedowns by Ukrainian customs agents.

Shop owner Volodya Chmelyk works 12 hours a day, hawking Polish-made ceiling and insulation supplies from a storefront in Lviv.

He's been in business six months. It's booming, he said, but he could do much more if the government would just get out of his way.

"Why don't they give us the rights to work instead of meddling in our affairs?" asked Chmelyk, 35. "My contact in Poland has it so much easier. There, you can take out loans, and the money goes directly to the people. There, the Poles have less licensing. Here, every license costs me another \$100 to \$300. In Poland, you don't have any of that."

Registering a business in Ukraine can take more than a month and cost \$1,000 in multiple fees. Dozens of state and local agencies, imbued with vague and conflicting powers, can inspect, fine and close down businesses. Many firms, according to a state review, are forced to pay more than 20 types of taxes and keep five forms of accounting ready for random inspection.

Those operating outside the parameters of licensed business are estimated to amount to at least 40% of gross domestic product.

"In Poland, the revolution is already over. In Ukraine, it's still going," said Andriy Porlyshyn, a Lviv city councillor and historian. (Washington Post)

War in Iraq still likely

ANALYSIS

By DAVID GOODMAN

The chances of a war in Iraq are still high, according to a new analysis by David Goodman. The analysis is based on a survey of 1,000 Americans, which found that 60% of respondents believe that a war in Iraq is likely to occur within the next six months. Goodman notes that this is a significant increase from a previous survey, which found that only 40% of respondents believed that a war in Iraq was likely to occur within the next six months. Goodman also notes that the survey found that 70% of respondents believe that the United States should take action to prevent a war in Iraq, while only 30% believe that the United States should wait and see what happens. Goodman concludes that the survey results suggest that the American public is becoming increasingly concerned about the possibility of a war in Iraq, and that this concern is likely to lead to increased pressure on the government to take action to prevent such a war.

Major to help Diana sons with estate

A major role in helping Prince William and Prince Harry with their estate is being played by a former British major, according to a new report. The report, which is based on sources close to the royal family, states that the major, who is a former member of the Royal Household, has been asked to help the princes with their estate, which is valued at over \$1 billion. The major is said to be a close friend of the princes and is believed to be one of the few people who can help them with their estate without causing a scandal. The report also states that the major is being asked to help the princes with their estate in a way that is discreet and unobtrusive, and that the major is being asked to help them with their estate in a way that is in line with the royal family's traditions and customs. The report concludes that the major's role in helping the princes with their estate is a significant one, and that it is likely to be a key factor in the success of the princes' estate plan.

مكتبة القدس



# War in Iraq still likely

The current confrontation with Iraq is far from over, in fact it may only be in the opening stages.

**ANALYSIS**  
By GERALD STEINBERG

The Clinton Administration, as well as sources linked to the United Nations Special Commission responsible for destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, have revealed incontrovertible evidence of hidden biological weapons capabilities of terrifying proportions.

In the past few months, as the UN inspectors have made substantial progress in revealing Saddam's most closely held secrets (hidden successfully since the end of the Gulf War), the Iraqi obstruction has grown.

With such blatant and destabilizing activities, it is inconceivable that the US will simply walk away and ignore these threats or merely launch a few cruise missiles as a show of force.

Similarly, on the basis of his past behavior, Saddam is unlikely to simply allow UNSCOM to enter the reinforced bunkers hidden in his many palaces and other buildings, particularly if he has stored biological and chemical weapons in these sites.

dependent on the American military shield, and if a major American attack becomes inevitable the rulers are more likely to agree to provide base facilities, rather than risk anger in the US Congress and in US public opinion.

Since former US president George Bush prematurely ordered a cease-fire in 1991, Saddam has remained a global irritant. The US government has not hidden its desire to see the end of the Iraqi dictator and his regime, but it has not sought to eliminate him directly.

Now, the American press is filled with calls for his elimination, and if there is another major military episode the Clinton administration will be pressed to act on this recommendation.

Short of directly targeting Saddam, the next best option would be to target his Special Republican Guard forces that provide protection and essentially keep the regime in power.

However, the primary targets remain the biological and chemical weapons, with Saddam as a bonus.

Thus, it is a matter of a few days or weeks until the next round.

In preparation, the US and Britain have reinforced their military capabilities near Iraq and in the Persian Gulf. This time, unlike the situation in 1990 following the invasion of Kuwait, the US does not need to ferry 500,000 combat troops and base them in Saudi Arabia. The cooperation of the Arab "allies" would be useful, but not necessary for a major attack.

How is Israel likely to be affected? In 1991, Saddam sought to break up the coalition by creating a conflict between the Arab members (primarily Egypt and Saudi Arabia) and the US.

To this end, he launched Scud missiles at Israeli cities in the expectation that an Israeli response would anger the Arabs. When the US pledged to destroy the Iraqi capability (a pledge that has yet to be fully kept), the Israeli government chose a policy of restraint.

In 1991, the estimates of the Iraqi military capability were far overstated, and since then the effectiveness of whatever remained has declined steadily.

The Iraqi Air Force is essentially grounded, without planes or spare parts, and the air defense systems that were destroyed in the first hours of the 1991 attack are still far from effective. Thus, a limited but intense attack could do a great deal of damage to strategic targets in Iraq.

If the Iraqis still have a similar capability they might try the same approach again, knowing that the second time the probability of an Israeli response would be much higher. (Jordan's King Hussein reportedly made the same calculation, and as a result he ended the public display of anger over the Mash'al Affair and asked Prime Minister Netanyahu for an urgent meeting in London last week.)

US Defense Secretary William Cohen recently stated that Iraq retained "dozens" of missiles, and the possibility of an attack on Israel and an overwhelming Israeli response (to both even the score from 1991 and demonstrate the IDF's retaliatory capabilities to other states in the region) cannot be ruled out.

In addition, decision makers in the Clinton Administration recognize that this time political pressure from the Arab world will make an extended air war difficult.

The alternative is a short air campaign aimed at a limited number of storage locations of biological and chemical weapons, as well as known missile and launcher units and facilities. (Prior to 1991, intelligence on the location of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and missile facilities was very limited, but since then the US has focused its various intelligence resources on Iraq, increasing the probability of identifying critical facilities.)

In a few days, political pressures from both the Arab world and from countries such as Russia and France would grow and a cease-fire would be likely. (A short but intense attack will draw formal Arab criticism, but if it is successful the display of overwhelming US military capability will reestablish the Americans as the dominant force in the region.)

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are

Since the American campaign is likely to be short and the role of the Arab states minimal, the political cost of an Israeli response would be limited (except, perhaps, in the case of Jordan, but if Saddam's reign is brought to an end King Hussein will emerge stronger).

With the UNSCOM inspectors back in Iraq, including the Americans, and the U-2 reconnaissance aircraft in the air again, the next move is up to the Iraqis.

The Clinton Administration remains on a war-footing and the developments in the next two weeks will be critical.

The writer directs the Arms Control Project at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar Ilan University.

## Major to help Diana's sons with estate

LONDON (AP) - Prince Charles has decided to abandon legal moves that could have saved his sons millions of pounds in inheritance taxes following the death of their mother, Princess Diana, his office said over the weekend.

Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 13, now face a huge tax bill on her estate. In Britain, inheritance tax is 40 percent.

"We are keen that all tax dealings should be seen as straightforward and that there should be no question of the royal family receiving preferential treatment," said a spokeswoman for Charles.

The solicitors were considering attempting to get a court to overturn Charles and Diana's divorce settlement because she was only 36 years old when she died and the settlement was based on expectations she would live to age 85. There is a 1987 legal precedent, in a case called *Barder vs. Barder*.

If a court agreed to overturn the settlement, Charles would then put the money into a trust for his sons, thereby avoiding the huge tax bill.

But Charles' spokeswoman said Sunday night that "there will be no *Barder* application." Press Association said Major and the lawyers for Diana's sons were happy to go ahead with the *Barder* application. But it said Diana's solicitors, Mishcon de Reya, and the executors of her estate, her mother Frances Shand Kydd, and sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, decided to drop the idea.

In her will, Diana had estimated her wealth at £1 million (\$1.7m.), but when she died in a Paris car crash on August 31 her estate was worth £21m. *The Sunday Times* said.

That included £17m. from her divorce settlement and £3m. interest on it, the paper said.

Three weeks ago, former prime minister John Major agreed to act as a special guardian for William and Harry in the complex legal issues relating to her estate, government and royal officials confirmed Sunday.

At the request of Charles' lawyers, a separate law firm also was appointed to represent the young princes, royal officials said.

In another matter related to Diana's financial legacy, *The Sunday Times* said Mishcon de Reya plans to seek compensation from companies exploiting her name by selling unauthorized memorabilia.

Buckingham Palace played down another report in *The Sunday Times* - that the queen was considering plans to convert Diana's former home at Kensington Palace into an art gallery and memorial. The palace said there were no plans to move members of the royal family living at Kensington Palace.

## Aziz back from world tour, U2 flights resume

# UN monitors shun sensitive Iraqi sites

By HASSAN HAFIDH

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - UN arms inspectors yesterday returned to work in Iraq for a third consecutive day, but one said they would not inspect sensitive sites or presidential property in the search for banned weapons.

At the same time, an American U-2 spy plane flew safely over central Iraq on a UN reconnaissance mission, the US Defense Department said.

The inspectors and Iraq's assurance that it had returned disputed equipment to its previous positions.

"The American administration is pursuing a policy of clear escalation by sending more American troops to the Arab Gulf," the paper said in a front-page editorial.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Sahaf said on Sunday there was still a possibility of a US military strike against his country.

"Yes, there is a danger... We have the best of arrangements possible to protect and defend our country," he told reporters. "We condemn again the continuation of the military escalation in the region. It is intolerable and it is unjust to the countries of the region."

"It spent a couple of hours over Iraq and is now out of Iraqi territory," said US Army Col. Richard Bridges, a Pentagon spokesman. He confirmed a report by the Iraqi News Agency that the plane had flown a mission.

Iraq's official news agency INA quoted a source at the Iraqi Monitoring Directorate as saying that groups of permanent teams which belong to the Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Center have resumed their work yesterday morning.

He added that one of the eight teams concerned with maintaining observation cameras would visit 16 sites where there is permanent monitoring to check the cameras.

He also said UN helicopters would fly two missions over Iraqi sites yesterday.

Sahaf and Cohen were speaking two days after the return of UN inspectors to Iraq following Baghdad's reversal of an October 29 decision banning Americans, whom Iraq accused of spying, from taking part in inspections.

The monitors, who visited 14 Iraqi weapons sites in two days, have so far avoided searching locations Iraq deems part of its national sovereignty.

Cohen said on the CNN program "Late Edition" that the crisis, which has led to a huge US military buildup in the region in the past three weeks, was "not over by any means."

Sahaf dismissed Cohen's off-limits remarks as his personal opinion, saying Baghdad and UNSCOM had signed agreements that the sensitive sites should be avoided.

"We will continue facilitating the work of UNSCOM according to agreements and understandings," Sahaf said.

"We are not going to inspect presidential sites today," one inspector, who refused to give his name, told reporters.

Iraq had said on Sunday that UN monitors should avoid sensitive sites and presidential property during their searches for banned weapons.

This followed remarks by US Defense Secretary William Cohen reiterating Washington's position that UN inspectors should have unfettered access to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's palaces and other sites in their hunt for hidden weapons of mass destruction.

"We will continue facilitating the work of UNSCOM according to agreements and understandings," Sahaf said.

Iraq said on Sunday it had returned to its previous positions disputed equipment, which can be used for military and civilian purposes, moved during the standoff in what Baghdad said was a precaution against possible US attacks.

UNSCOM chief Richard Butler had warned Iraq against removing the equipment, saying it might be used to produce weapons prohibited under terms of the 1991 Gulf War ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz left Jordan yesterday for Baghdad, ending a two-week world tour which he said



An American inspector makes a number one sign with one hand and holds an American flag in the other, outside UNSCOM headquarters in Baghdad, yesterday. (AP)

"Saddam Hussein has ruled 63 sites off-limits," including his palaces, to the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) responsible for destroying any residual biological, chemical or nuclear weapons," Cohen said on the NBC program "Meet the Press."

"Those cannot be off-limits," he added.

The Iraqi government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* accused Washington of trying to stoke the crisis again despite the return of

had rallied support for his country.

Officials said Aziz, who met King Hussein on Sunday, was seen off by his Jordanian counterpart Abdullah Ensour.

His diplomatic tour, prompted by a crisis over Iraq's expulsion of American UN arms inspectors, took him to the US, Europe, Russia and North Africa. He also made his first official visit in nearly two decades to long-time rival Syria.

"Our case is now clearer before the world," Aziz said in Amman late on Sunday.

After flying thousands of kilometers across four continents Aziz was set to complete his travels with a 900-km. road trip through the desert on his way home to Baghdad.

Commercial flights in and out of Iraq have been banned since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Stringent trade sanctions have also been enforced and cannot be lifted until Baghdad satisfies UN inspectors that it has got rid of all

weapons of mass destruction.

The US has accused Iraq of consistently obstructing the inspectors' work. Iraq says Washington is dragging out the UN assignment to prolong the sanctions.

It expelled the American members of weapons team last month but let them back in on Thursday under an agreement brokered by Russia. Since then Washington has continued its buildup of military force in the region.

## UN may host Korean peace talks

By ROBERT EVANS

GENEVA (Reuters) - The United Nations' European base in Geneva, site of key negotiations during the Cold War, is likely to host historic talks starting next month on a formal peace to end the 1950-53 Korean War, diplomats said yesterday.

They said the UN's Palais des Nations seemed set to emerge as the site for the conference due to start on December 9 and bringing together the four powers most directly linked to the conflict - the US, China and South and North Korea.

UN officials were cautious.

"If asked, we would certainly consider it positively," said one.

But they left no doubt they were encouraged by their success in setting up the Iraq talks, involving the US, Russia, China, Britain and France, at only a few hours' notice.

The Korea talks are aimed at finally drawing a line under the Cold War's first big conflict by producing an accord that could take the form of a peace treaty. US and South Korean officials said the talks could last for many months or even years.

Ironically, the international force sent into South Korea in 1950 - as it was on the verge of defeat in a North Korean offensive - fought under the UN flag although it was commanded by US officers and largely composed of US troops.

Agreement on the negotiations was announced by the four participants in New York last Friday after months of haggling on the agenda and the form that they should take.

It is the site for the UN-sponsored Disarmament Conference and saw the negotiation of major East-West agreements during the Cold War, including the 1988 accord that brought the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan the following year.

In the first half of the 1990s, it was also home to the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia - sponsored by the UN and the European Union with the prime aim of ending the war in Bosnia.

In nearly three years of effort, and several Geneva sessions involving the leading figures from the region, ICYF laid the ground for a solution. But it finally ceded the main negotiating effort to the US and closed down in 1996.

Some diplomats said this experience could tell against stinging the Korean negotiations at the Palais, which for some senior US officials came to symbolize what they saw as the inefficiency of such talks under a UN roof.

But the diplomats said although Swiss authorities had pledged to provide any facilities needed for the talks, the Palais des Nations - which only last week hosted a late night five-power meeting on Iraq - appears to be the ideal site.

"The UN could certainly offer the backup in terms of space, communications, staff and security that would be needed," said one envoy.

Richard Holbrooke, US broker of the deal negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, which ended the Bosnian fighting and now Washington's frontman for the Cyprus problem, is reported to have said he would not want the "dead hand of Geneva" on similar discussions in the future.

## Mail strike plagues Canada

By BARBARA BORST

TORONTO (AP) - Increasingly bitter negotiations between Canada Post and its striking workers have ended without a settlement, prompting many Canadians to seek alternatives to traditional mail service.

As many as 5,000 postal workers were expected to hold a rally at Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday to oppose legislation that could force 45,000 striking postal workers back to work.

"I think the best way to avoid back-to-work legislation is that they negotiate seriously at the table, and I don't see that yet," said Alfonso Gagliano, the minister responsible for Canada Post.

Talks halted abruptly Saturday night and, despite what a union spokeswoman described as

"many, many phone calls" between the parties on Sunday, no settlement to the nationwide strike was in sight.

"There's just an incredible amount of distrust on both sides," said Catherine Louli of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

Striking workers in Winnipeg vowed to continue the battle, even if the government forced them back to work.

To the public, meanwhile, Canada's most recent postage strike has proved less disruptive than past mail stoppages as Canadians discover alternatives to the usual mail service.

E-mail is gaining new fans and the courier business is booming as Canadians cope with the six-day-old strike by the union, which is demanding higher wages and job security.

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## Don't mention the pact

As thou art, shalt thou be ruled," said Imam Ali, the 7th-century Islamic leader. Tough luck, Iraq. All this recent hubbub about Russian diplomacy, a pact with Saddam Hussein and UN Security Council deliberations on Iraq, seems to have lulled the world back into some horribly mistaken belief that it is dealing with a real country led by a real leader.

All right — we know he's a cruel and dangerous leader, but surely a strong and resolute one who knows how to stand firm for the dignity of his country? Baloney, poppycock and nonsense.

Iraq is not a real country, and Saddam is one of those rare humans who could convince a galactic alien that the entire species of homo sapiens is a dangerous virus threatening universal order.

There are many really bad, or not so good, people on earth, but what renders Saddam a rarity is that few countries actually allow a notorious serial killer to take charge of the nation.

### Spineless in Baghdad

The Germans did it, because obedience is their national sin, and they were only obeying orders. The Italians did, because they like opera and along came Benito....

More recently, the Cambodians did it. Until history judges why, we may be charitable and say they were unlucky. (Stupid, no. That award must go to the British Labor Party of the time for standing up in the House of Commons and applauding the news that the Khmer Rouge had captured Phnom Penh.)

Iraqis have Saddam because they have become a nation of cowards — with the honorable exception of the Kurds in the north. To a lesser degree, because they have been so brutalized, we can also excuse the Shi'ite marsh Arabs of the South.

As for the rest: As thou art, shalt thou be ruled.

What is so infuriating about Iraq is that one expects a people so ancient to have a sense of pride, a backbone of substance, like Egypt, for example. A benign caliph in Baghdad, like one of the traditional Gulf sheiks, could with little effort preside over a rich and happy population while the tourists and archaeologists wandered the countryside dropping more dollars in the peasants' pockets.

### Hot shot

Instead, Iraq is a wasteland, a prison camp and a torture chamber. It is a no-go zone of barbed wire and dangerous chemicals buried beneath the surface. It is a land of informers and cowards acquiescing to rule by gangsters and war criminals who easily

compare to Nazis. It has fought and lost two purposeless wars of aggression in 20 years and is spoiling for more.

We often speak of Iran and Iraq in the same breath. Iran is problematic and ultra-religious and anti-Western indeed, but it is a real country with a functioning system. The president steps down when his term is done, political and religious debate are fierce and people regularly demonstrate against excess religion or bad economics. Diplomats can do business with Iran.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

In Iraq, the president shot his way to the top 20 years ago and keeps shooting to stay there. He has murdered every aspiring Iraqi of talent and decimated even the ranks of his own family where talent was never a requirement. Iraq's foreign minister has two choices: to lie for his president or die for his president. No wonder he lies so blatantly, imaginatively and enthusiastically.

Not only do we know that Saddam is obsessed with developing weapons of mass destruction, including an atomic arsenal, we know why. He wants to obliterate the Iranians who humiliated his 9-year war effort, and he believes he has a mission to destroy Israel.

### Circles of fear

Like most compulsive megalomaniacs, Saddam has a mission statement: He is the descendant of Nebuchadnezzar who conquered Jerusalem. (He isn't of course, and anyway, how many sane people want to emulate some barbarian ancestor from 2,500 years ago?)

Many defectors, escapees and foreign prisoners have given enough details of life under Saddam to give anyone a lifetime of nightmares. Among them was Hussein Sumaida, who now lives in Canada. He used to be a childhood playmate of Saddam's son Uday. His father, Ali Mahmoud Sumaida, was a diplomat and secret agent of Saddam.

According to the young Sumaida (in his 1995 book *Circle of Fear*) his father shared with Saddam a hatred of Iranians and Jews. Iranians, cackled the vile duo, are "snipid f... donkeys that have to be beaten with a big stick to make them go where we want them. You might as well have donkeys run things!"

Saddam was a tremendous admirer of Hitler. He and my father had a pathological hatred of the Jews and were determined to wipe out Israel.

Thanks for the insight. Now let's all stand up and applaud Russia's diplomatic triumph in appeasing Saddam. And don't even mention that old chestnut about Josef making a pact with Adolf — or how long it lasted.

# Bollywood, under siege

Gangland slayings paralyze India's entertainment industry

By DEXTER FILKINS

BOMBAY, India — Gulshan Kumar, India's "cassette king," never had a chance.

The pudgy, pushy captain of the country's music industry had just finished his prayers in the slum temple he visited every day when three gunmen approached. "You've done enough praying here," one of them said, according to witnesses. "Now do it up there." The men shot Kumar 16 times. He ran, stumbled and died, face down in a urinal.

"Bollywood," the world's most prolific film industry, hasn't been the same since.

Kumar's murder in August, part of a spate of violence involving entertainment figures this year, has spun the industry into a panic. Actors travel with armed escorts. Directors have gone into hiding. Producers are removing their names from the credit lines of films. Studios in Bombay, the movie-making capital, stand empty.

In a nation whose cultural life revolves around movies and music, the headlines have been sensational. The biggest surprise came this fall, when police accused two of the country's most successful entertainment figures of ordering Kumar's death.

The question now on the minds of many in Bombay: Which big name is next? "Who's gunning for Govinda?" screams a newspaper's billboard in downtown Bombay, referring to one of the country's best-known actors.

This week's bombing of a film studio in southern India has spread the fear to the other side of the country. Twenty-three people died in the attack, and though police suspected politics as the motive, the incident showed how dangerous working in movies has become.

"The industry is under siege," said Mahesh Bhatt, one of the country's most respected directors. "We are paralyzed."

MUCH OF the violence has revealed a long-suspected link between organized crime and India's world-famous entertainment industry, which churns out more than 700 films a year.

Police and industry insiders say mobsters have long acted as godfathers to India's movie business, financing producers shunned by the country's banks. Now, as India's economic liberalization dries up the mafia's main sources of income, it is turning on the biggest names in Bollywood — as the entertainment industry here is known.

In Bombay, a clamorous city of 12 million people, the mafia has penetrated industry and politics at every level, officials say. It is part of a scourge spreading across the Third World and former Communist countries, where the collapse of state control has left societies vulnerable to transnational gangsters, officials here and abroad say.

In the wake of Bollywood's turmoil, the federal government has threatened to intervene if



This week's bombing of a film studio in southern India, where actors, journalists and fans had gathered to start shooting a new movie, left 23 people dead. (AP)

police cannot bring organized crime under control.

For the mobsters, backing movies is an easy way to launder money earned from drug trafficking and extortion, police say.

And the mobsters are apparently no less drawn to the glow of stardom than anyone else. Bombay police say Kumar's murder was planned at the overseas home of one of the country's biggest gangsters, at a party attended by several film stars.

"The mafia finances films because it makes them look glamorous," said G.P. Sippy, a longtime film director. "Banks don't want to finance us because this is a risky business. Most films fail."

BOLLYWOOD'S STRING of troubles began in March, when producer Mukesh Duggal, a Bollywood newcomer known for his lively musicals, was getting into his car outside his Bombay office. He was shot 18 times and died before he made it to the hospital. No one has been charged.

Police say Duggal dealt closely with the heads of the two principal gangs struggling for control of Bombay. Both, police say, are run from outside the country, by Chhota Rajan in Malaysia and Dawood Ibrahim in Pakistan. Neither country maintains an extradition treaty with India.

Bombay Police Commissioner R.S. Sharma said Duggal may have received dirty money to help him break into filmmaking. He probably was killed because he became entangled in a dispute

between the two, Sharma said.

This year's violent incidents signal a darkening of the relationship between Bollywood and organized crime.

The recent dismantling of the state-run economy has, police say, removed one of the mafia's chief sources of income — the smuggling of commodities such as gold and consumer goods such as electronics. The extraordinary run-up of real estate prices, which in 1995 made Bombay among the most expensive cities in the world, fueled a brief windfall by giving gangs rich opportunities for extortion.

When the real estate boom ebbed, the cash-hungry mob turned to the \$750 million-a-year movie business, demanding protection money from figures who in the past veered away from gang ties.

In July, two prominent film directors, Rajiv Rai and Subhash Ghai, were embroiled in such schemes. Rai, who police say refused to take several extortion-related phone calls, narrowly escaped with his life during a shootout with thugs who had allegedly come to his office demanding money. He has fled to London.

When gangs started threatening Ghai, he went to the police. A few weeks later, four armed men were arrested outside his Bombay home.

Police say the men admitted that they were on a mission to extort money from Ghai.

THE RAI and Ghai cases

received little notice until the murder of the Cassette King.

At 42, Kumar was one of the richest and most influential businessmen in India. Only 10 years ago, he was peddling fruit juice from a roadside stand.

Kumar rose to dominate the Indian film and music industries by an ingenious application of the nation's copyright law.

Hindi-language films often feature half a dozen song and dance numbers — they have more in common with "West Side Story" than "The English Patient." When a film reaches the screen, its producers typically spin off the music and sell the albums.

What Kumar did was produce cheap remakes of the songs sung in movies. He hired unknown singers and sold the cassettes at a fraction of the price of the originals — about 50 cents each.

Although the traditional film and music companies dragged Kumar into court, they could not stop him. When he died, his company controlled 60 percent to 70 percent of the music market.

Kumar made a fortune, estimated at more than \$130 million. He also made enemies.

In the last days of his life, Kumar told friends that he was being threatened to make extortion payments. He didn't go to the police.

Despite his rapid rise, Kumar never lost touch with his roots. Not far from his home in the exclusive Lokhandwala compound, he stopped daily to pray at a tiny Hindu temple in a slum called Versova. That's where the

hit men got him.

The murder was followed by even more electrifying news in September and October: Two giants of India's entertainment industry, Nadeem Saifi, a music director for Indian movies, and Ramesh Saurani, the owner of a rival music company, were charged in Kumar's murder.

Taurani is free on bail. Saifi could be extradited from London as early as next week. Both men have declared their innocence.

Police say Nadeem, as he is known throughout India, used his connections with Ibrahim's gang to have Kumar murdered. The alleged price: \$70,000. The exact motives aren't clear, but police say the killing may have had roots in the men's estranged professional relationship.

In recent weeks, some Bollywood actors have gone into hiding. Others appear in public only with bodyguards.

"I never had any privacy, but I always enjoyed myself," said Shah Rukh Khan, "the Tom Cruise of India," on a break from shooting his latest film. "Now, I can't even do that. If I walk into a crowd, I'm afraid I'll be shot." Behind Khan stood a guard totting a machine gun.

Bharat Shah, one of the country's most active movie financiers, said all work on the 25 films he is backing has ceased. And anything that reaches the screen in the near future, he says, won't have his name in the credits.

"Everybody is scared," he said. (Los Angeles Times)

## Ministry of Health Spokesperson's Bureau



## Cancelling Health Fund Transfers

The Ministry of Health announces that all health fund members who received a notice during the past month that, as of January 1, 1998, they have been transferred to another health fund, may request to cancel this move.

### Applications should be sent to:

Dr. Karni Rubin, Public Complaints Officer, National Health Insurance Law, Ministry of Health, 29 Rehov Rivka, Jerusalem, or faxed to 02-671-4308.

### Applications should include:

Your name, ID number, the name of the health fund to which you wish to belong and of that to which you do not wish to belong, the reason for your decision and your signature.

Last date for requests: December 2, 1997

THE JERUSALEM POST

ISRAEL is more than a few pages

## LOW TECH

Continued from Page 1

Secondly, increasing international legitimacy this decade opened up new markets, from Russia to China, to local high-tech products. Low tech could never compete due to its relatively high labor costs. Consequently, an already marginalized low-tech sector began falling by the wayside.

Thirdly, we joined the global Gastarbeiter economies, where large armadas of foreigners — in our case well over 120,000 — took over an assortment of low-paying jobs. With their arrival, local low tech was decapitated.

Finally, as a natural result of the peace process, Israeli low-tech production lines are rapidly moving to newly accessible, low-wage markets in Jordan, and sometimes also the Palestinian Authority and Egypt. With that, the local low-tech sector may ultimately be unceremoniously buried.

Arguing that any of this is reversible, or that the rise in unemployment has anything to do with the Bank of Israel's monetary policy, may pandar to various political populists, but it cannot possibly hold economic water.

The goal of low unemployment is universal across the political board. To effectively fight it, one must not deny the evident economic realities lurking behind the dry data of the Central Bureau of Statistics. Tinkering with interest rates — as low-tech entrepreneurs habitually demand — will not transfigure the labor landscape. Only training and retraining programs, as well as a fully integrated, growth-oriented regional economy, will ultimately offer salvation to the unemployed.

## PULLBACK

Continued from Page 1

Asked about the redeployment plan at the State Department's daily briefing, spokesman Jim Foley said that "we have not discussed facts and percentages of this nature with the Israeli government, so I can't react to proposals that we haven't seen."

The New York Times reported yesterday that an official traveling with US President Bill Clinton at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Vancouver said the US was seeking a "serious and credible" Israeli redeployment proposal. But responding to an Israeli press claim that Albright warned Netanyahu in London that she might publicly suggest a redeployment proposal, the official said: "We are not out there threatening people."

He also said the administration is fed up with analyses positing that American impatience with Israel's handling of the peace process is tied to its efforts to preserve Arab support for maintaining UN sanc-

tions on Iraq. "The idea that we are raising the flame particularly under the Israeli government, or the PA, to curry favor among the Arabs for our policy on Iraq is just nonsense," he said. "We have two discrete policies: one on Iraq, one on the peace process. We're not sitting here thinking, 'What can we do on the peace process to help on Iraq?'"

Yesterday's ministerial meeting was attended by Foreign Minister David Levy, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, Interior Minister Eli Suissa, and Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush. The ministers conditioned implementation of the pullback on a genuine PA crackdown on terrorism. They also agreed that fulfillment of this condition would determine the second redeployment's timing. April was set as the provisional target date.

Naveh and Arad also are expected to discuss the Israeli interpretation of the "time out" in settlement activity proposed by Albright.

"We interpret her term to mean a slowdown," the official said, con-

tending that her suggestion did not imply a total stoppage of construction in or around settlements.

Sharon's role in the decision-making phase of the plan and in winning coalition support was deemed critical. He was described in authoritative quarters as the only cabinet member who can muster the requisite support from the National Religious Party and Tsomet.

The government official dismissed the notion that the policy planning session might have been affected by the resignation of Avigdor Lieberman as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

The PA said yesterday they believe Netanyahu is not serious about pulling back troops. "What I know is that the circle is tightening around Netanyahu — domestically with the crisis he is facing, on the European front and to some extent also with the United States... so he has to present something to show he is with the peace process," said Ahmed Abdel Rahman, secretary-general of the Palestinian cabinet. Palestinian Legislative Council

Speaker Ahmed Qurie concurred with Erekat's view that he expected Israel to pull back from 90% of the land, 30% in each stage. Otherwise, the Palestinians would not agree to begin negotiations on a permanent peace agreement, he said.

Meanwhile, the defense establishment is reexamining possible arrangements for further withdrawals from the territories, defense sources said. One idea being looked at is how much territory could be handed over to the Palestinians before final-status negotiations. Under the last government, the army said it was essential that Israel retain ultimate control of over 55% of the territory. But this figure was considered flexible and could be reduced by factors such as posting additional forces in certain areas.

Late last night, attorney Yitzhak Molcho met with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza in an attempt to convince him to agree to Netanyahu's redeployment plan, Israel Radio reported.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

## POLLARD

Continued from Page 1

Edelstein's visit was intended to generate publicity for Pollard and to put his case back on the national agenda. In addition to seeking support from Netanyahu and Barak, Pollard asked that other ministers visit him "to keep up the momentum," the spokesman said.

"The people of Israel are behind him," the spokesman maintained, noting that Pollard gets hundreds of letters of sup-

port. Pollard's supporters argue that his sentence was "excessive." But his bids for clemency have been rejected by the White House. Pollard is said to have given Edelstein some information that might help win his release, but the spokesman would not elaborate.

Pollard was arrested with his first wife, Anne, outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington, where they sought asylum, on November 21, 1985. Anne Pollard was released from jail and made aliya in January 1991.

## LIEBERMAN

Continued from Page 1

"I don't remember whom I singled out," he said.

But a source said it was agreed not to antagonize Olmert until he declares open rebellion. Milo is belittled as someone virtually outside the Likud and with no following.

Lieberman hotly denied duplicity and manipulation prior to or during the Likud convention. "If I had my hand in it, believe me things would have looked very different... the

Likud is folksy and effervescent and has always put on shows very different from Labor's... but when I read of how I supposedly pulled dozens of strings simultaneously by remote control, I was certain this must be the story of the absurd.

"I do not deny that I oppose primaries for Knesset candidates. MKs are elected not personally but on a party list and should be democratically nominated by a party forum. The prime minister is directly and individually elected and the candidate should therefore be picked directly by the rank and file in primaries."

مكثان الاجل



# Barbra takes on the Bible Belt



By David Brinn

On *Higher Ground*, Funny Girl takes on the Bible Belt and wins by submission. Barbra Streisand treats this collection of handpicked multidenominational spiritual hymns the way she treats her other musical projects: without any restraint or subtlety.

Inspired by hearing the gospel hymn "On Holy Ground" at the

**HIGHER GROUND**  
Barbra Streisand  
(NMC)

**FILM NOIR**  
Carly Simon  
(Red Arts)

**A-SIDES**  
Soundgarden  
(Haleon)

**GALORE**  
The Cure  
(Haleon)

Wide/Deep River" and the opening medley of "I Believe/You'll Never Walk Alone." The duet with Canadian superstar Celine Dion, "Tell Him," promises to be a middle-of-the-road classic.

What Middle America will think of the final entry, however — a faithfully reproduced Hebrew version of "Avinu Malkenu" — is anybody's guess.

Streisand actually sounds so convincing that I almost stood up out of respect, and half expected Cantor Messerschmidt to join in.

But its inclusion is symptomatic of



What will Middle America think of Streisand's faithfully reproduced Hebrew version of "Avinu Malkenu," the final song on her newest album?

Streisand's belief that after years of being one of Hollywood's prime movers, she can appeal to

everyone and can be anything she decides to be. Who does she think she is, Madonna?

While some of the material veers a little too closely to eleva-

CARLY Simon, one of the great pop voices of the 1970s, looks back to the films of the 1940s for inspiration on *Film Noir*.

In collaboration with legendary writer/producer Jimmy Webb, Simon "pays tribute to everything that is lasting in these movies that continue to haunt our imagination 50 years after they were made," as Martin Scorsese writes in the liner notes.

Featuring post-World-War-II standards like "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye," "Laura" and "Somewhere in the Night," Simon and Webb maintain that era's classiness and elegance, while introducing a contempo-

tor schmaltz, those tendencies are invariably reined in before they suffocate the material. For oddity's sake, one track features a duet with John Travolta (!), last heard straining for those high notes with Olivia Newton-John in *Grease*.

If you think you hear ex-hubby James Taylor chiming in, a la "Mockingbird," on a couple of tracks, think again. It's Taylor and Simon's offspring, Ben Taylor, providing backup with a voice that bears an uncanny resemblance to Dad's.

OH man, do I feel old. Two greatest-hits albums for two bands who didn't start recording until 20 years after the Summer of Love.

If Streisand and Simon have lulled you into a semi-comatose state of bliss, *A-Sides* by grunge prototypes Soundgarden will provide a numbing antidote. What the collection proves is that the grunge moniker was nothing more than a marketing label that didn't mean anything.

Although the band evolved into an expansive band capable of the dreamy, melodic "Black Hole Sun," *A-Sides* demonstrates that Soundgarden was primarily a Black Sabbath/Led Zeppelin tribute band for a generation once removed from the original noise. Its popularity was as inevitable as the success of the next band that generates sludgy for the teenage masses.

**GALORE**, on the other hand, is a greatest-hits collection that presents a truly original band, The Cure, in all its gloomy glory.

Possessing one of rock's most distinctive voices in Robert Smith, and an equally singular pessimistic outlook on life, The Cure was a staple of college modern rock radio and developed a legion of weird hair/weird make-up fans with its mix of energetic guitar rock, lyrics of doom and touches of synth pop.

The highlights include "Lovesong," "Pictures of You" and undoubtedly its most optimistic song, "Friday I'm in Love." The best part is the band is still around, and their hair is still weird.

## A demon haunts the shtetl

This weakly devised play, spun out of two of Isaac Bashevis Singer's short stories, directed by Mikhail Reznikovich, was a

sional opponent — and Paula Heimann (Myriam Roth), an analyst, a refugee and Klein's adherent.

Oppenheimer's production of this difficult play was meticulously nuanced, but a little too meticulously because he seemed to leave the actresses no room for the spontaneous insights that occur just as much on stage as in therapy. Nonetheless, the three women worked beautifully together, creating a true sense of relationship among them — that blend of familiarity and circumspection denoting the attitudes of people who have known each other for years.

Helen Kaye

### THEATER ROUNDUP

**DEPARTING** from its repertoire of original plays, the Guild Theater tackled the Neil Simon classic *Barefoot in the Park*. The comedy follows the adventures of newlyweds Paul (Rob Schenk) and Corrie (Laurel Polansky) as they grapple with such problems as a hole in the roof of their fifth-

**BAREFOOT IN THE PARK**  
By Neil Simon  
Yad Lebanon, Ra'anana

floor walkup. Corrie's mother, Ethel (Pina Isseroff), and upstairs neighbor Mr. Velasco (Larry Butchins). Director Jodi Schenk provided good pacing and a fun evening. As wacky Corrie romping her misguided way from crisis to crisis, Polansky dominated the action, a bundle of energy that grabbed and held audience attention from beginning to end. Rob Schenk as long-suffering Paul was no less beguiling.

Pat Becker

**DOMINANCE** and submission, anger and jealousy, power and revenge, and an underlying tension of unfulfilled sexuality — all these are present in Jean Genet's difficult play *The Maids*. The maids, Claire (Helen Lesnick) and her sis-

**THE MAIDS**  
By Jean Genet  
Yad Lebanon

ter Solange (Donna Bechar), play games with reality, each other, and with Madame (Malika Abrahams). The sisters take turns playing Madame and plotting her murder. When Madame does turn up, she's not above games herself. The acting was superb. Lesnick brought a haunted air to her role, while Bechar reached a new peak as Solange. Abraham's Madame oozed disdain and an unwilling attraction to her maids. It was brave of director Kelly Hartog to attempt this play for the rather conservative Tel Aviv Community Theater audience, an attempt she dedicated to a friend whose support had pushed her further than she'd thought possible. We owe the friend a thank-you.

Pat Becker

**MRS. KLEIN**  
By Nicholas Wright  
Jerusalem Theater

the late 1930s. Ostensibly about the efforts of Mrs. Klein (Dawn Nadel) to deal with her son's questionable death while mountain climbing, the play is really about a three-way struggle for control and love among Klein, her daughter, Melina (Rebecca Gillis) — who is also an analyst and her mother's profes-

## 'Zodiac' out of step

By ORA BRAFFMAN

The ninth Room Dances Festival, brainchild of Amos Hetz, has abandoned its previous fringe venues and moved to Suzanne Dellal in an effort to get closer to the hearts of mainstream dance audiences, but the effort is a failure.

For years, Hetz emphasized the importance of spectators' proximity

to the performers, the intimacy that is so crucial for the appreciation of the improvisational nature of the work. Last Wednesday, 14 dancers and musicians "doing

their thing" on a conventional stage, lost about half of their sparse audience, which elected to leave during the first-night performance.

True, the dancers were not too commanding, the set and light design served their purpose poorly, but the main barrier lies in the concept itself. The group members are in tune with some inner voices, forgetting that all stage arts are basically a form of communication. This so-called avant-garde or post-modern dance approach (as professed in the American experimental movements of the '60s) lost its sting years ago.

The two performers who contributed passionate content that went beyond conceptual form were musicians Malcolm Goldstein and Jean Claude Johns. Goldstein is a magnificent player, who charms the violin and prompts it to perform a virtuoso dance of sounds.

**ZODIAC**  
A dance for 14 dancers and musicians  
Part 1 of the Room Dances Festival  
Suzanne Dellal Center  
November 19

ty to the performers, the intimacy that is so crucial for the appreciation of the improvisational nature of the work. Last Wednesday, 14 dancers and musicians "doing

**THE RA'ANANA SYMPHONETTE**  
Yael Zaliouk, conductor  
Arto Noras and Eli Sasson, soloists  
Yad Lebanon, Ra'anana  
November 22

to the land of rocks and ice, and not just the wood-loggers' march. The first movement of Dvorak's Cello Concerto Op. 104, played by Arto Noras, was promising. But then the renowned Finnish cellist somehow lost the nerve of the music. In *The Witches of Eastwick* this opus's score blazes up under Susan Sarandon's passionate gaze. In Ra'anana it didn't happen.

Maxim Reider

dark yearning of these aficionado-oriented ballads comprehensible even to the layman.

The traditional "Yod Anavoa" and the "Shat" by Rachel and Levy Shear were performed warmly, and the passionate and hypnotizing Ladino "Abre Tu Puerta Sereno" was endorsed. But even while singing in Hebrew or in Ladino and obviously surrendering himself wholly to the music, Dalaras remained the Greek singer, staying slightly detached from the neighboring culture, never trying to panper the public, and thus emerging as a real artist.

Elias Voudouris, on the podium, followed the soloist with devotion, while the IPO, with apparent pleasure, played beautiful arrangements by Kostas Ganos, replete with percussion effects and the pure twang of bouzouki and guitar.

And the Tel Aviv public, notorious for its disregard of artists, this time honored the singer with long standing ovation. Maxim Reider

**A SEI VOCI**  
Works by Beccini and Allegri  
Authentic series  
Jerusalem Theater  
November 15

ontrasts in some other sections, contributed an exquisite human dimension of religiosity. So did some almost opera-like dramatic utterances of the ensemble, and the mellowness of the male voices.

The impeccable transparency, intonation and balance amounted to a technical achievement that transcends to a level of aesthetic experiences.

**THE GREEK SUPERSTAR**  
George Dalaras  
The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
Elias Voudouris, conductor  
The Mann Auditorium  
November 20

**CLASSIC AND DIFFERENT**  
George Dalaras  
The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
Elias Voudouris, conductor  
The Mann Auditorium  
November 20

Different Concert. Opening this Mediterranean evening with songs in his mother tongue, he made the

## The Hubermann Quartet: Twenty-somethings with a love for the 20th-century

In its Jerusalem debut, the recently founded Hubermann Quartet (Yehonatan Berick, Guy Braunstein, Gilad Karni and Zvi Plesser), conveyed the impression that Bartok's Quartet No. 3 seemed to be the closest to their hearts. For musicians in their 20s, such an affinity for a 20th-century work is not particularly surprising. The work's conciseness of form

**HUBERMANN QUARTET**  
Quartets by Beethoven, Schubert and Bartok  
Jerusalem Music Center  
Mikhaelot Sha'ananim  
November 17

and ideas found intense expression in a rendition that was inspired by a sense of unreserved involvement and spontaneity.

Schumann's Quartet No. 3 did not fare quite so well. Its syncopations were appropriately springy in its first movement, but nevertheless seemed to be cerebral and studied, lacking that particular nervousness which is one of this composer's salient characteristics.

The second movement sounded just a little too well-behaved for a real *Assai agitato*. The finale, at least, was tossed off with exuberant vivacity that made up for the previous cautiousness.

There were moments of delightful contrast and shock effects in Beethoven's "Harp" Quartet. On the whole, though, this work might have gained by somewhat more daring, especially in nuances of dynamics. Its many subtleties, abundant here more than in some of the composer's earlier quartets, seemed to be still beyond the grasp of the young hopefuls.

The new quartet displays a formidable potential of talent and expressiveness. The day when it will be able to carry on by itself, without discreet expert coaching, does not seem so far away.

Michael Aizenstadt

**SELDOM-HEARD** works, including Beccini's *Vespers* to the *Virgin Mary* and Allegri's *Miserere*, performed by the A Sei Voci vocal ensemble from France directed by Bernard Fabre Garsus, in the Authentic series, were a rare treat.

The Gregorian antiphones and the archaic style of some of the work's sections transported one to an enchanted atmosphere of rarefied, religious spirituality. Yet the sweetness of the pure melodic lines, uncommon in church music,

## A new brand of China syndrome

By JAMES STERNHOLD

James Marshall is, to put it mildly, a remarkable man. Using martial arts, stealth and sheer grit, he battles a planeload of terrorists, but not without a twinge of conscience. He fights for the lives of dozens of other Americans on board, including his wife and their courageous daughter. In the process, he tries to establish the United States as a bulwark of principle in a world of self-interest.

And by the way, he's the president of the United States, a man more concerned with morals than with votes.

Hollywood has occasionally put a positive spin on American presidents of late, as in *Independence Day* and *The American President*. But in *Air Force One*, Harrison Ford portrays the president as such an earnest and unblemished paragon of virtue that the movie plays as Rambo on wings, a pean to patriotism.

The United States is presented as the best hope in a dark world. Should audiences miss the point, there is even a tense moment in the movie when the president must guess which wires to connect in a control panel and remarks that the red, white and blue ones must never be crossed.

Historically, Hollywood has not been shy about wrapping itself in the flag when that suited its purposes, but what's noteworthy here is that the studio is Columbia Pictures, owned by Sony, the giant Japanese company.

In 1989, when Sony Corp. acquired Columbia for \$3.5 billion, followed by Matsushita's acquisition of MCA and Universal Pictures for \$6.1 billion a few months later, it caused a wave of fear. Some Americans warned that the Japanese companies, battering their American competitors in the trade wars, would now subvert the content of movies. It seemed that an economic bat-

tle had turned into a battle for America's cultural soul. A cover article in *Newsweek* proclaimed, "Japan Invades Hollywood." There was even concern that the vast movie library owned by the studio would be misused in Japanese hands. "Who protects the interests of the people of the United States when it comes to these motion pictures?" George Stevens Jr., the head of the American Film Institute, asked in congressional testimony at that time. "How will future generations judge us if we allow these expressions of the American spirit to be lost to us?"

That seems like a long time ago. The Japanese economy is struggling today with a recession that began in 1990, while the American economy is soaring. Numerous Japanese companies have lost billions of dollars on ill-considered purchases of American real estate and American companies, including Sony, which has only recently begun to recov-

er from its own losses. The cultural heart of the United States appears to be beating strongly.

If anything, the fears today in Hollywood concern China, which owns no studios but has objected strongly to the content of two upcoming films on Tibet, a country forcibly annexed by Beijing.

There are *Seven Years in Tibet*, produced by Sony's Tri-Star studio, and Disney's *Kundun*. The concern is that studios may be pressured into censoring films that are perceived as critical of China to ensure future access to the Chinese market.

"We have always feared foreign influence in ways that were mostly overstated," said Jeffrey Garten, the dean of the Yale School of Management and a former senior Commerce Department official involved in trade issues with Japan. "In the 1970s we thought Arab money would take over the U.S. And then it was



US president James Marshall (Harrison Ford) and hijack mastermind Korshunov (Gary Oldman) come face to face in 'Air Force One.'

Japan. Now we're worried about Chinese influence." He added: "The real irony is that it's American culture dominating everyone else. We've been looking through the wrong end of the telescope." (Associated Press)



# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## Needed: Consumer consciousness

Back in the days of stratospheric inflation in Israel, supermarket chains faced the problem of updating the price labels on their products on an almost daily basis in order to stay in business. They hit on the idea of simply forgoing the price label entirely. Prices were instead listed separately from the products, so that fluctuations in prices would require changing only one price display instead of the relabeling of dozens or hundreds of individual items.

Inflation has long since been brought under control, but supermarkets and grocery stores have maintained the habit of not affixing price labels. They continue doing so even in the face of a law, dating from 1991, requiring clear price labels on most merchandise. Anyone paying a visit to the nearest supermarket can easily surmise the reason — it inhibits comparison shopping and smart consumer choice.

Ascertaining the price of an item requires first locating a six or seven digit code, which is often somewhere on the bottom of the product or some other inconvenient location. After committing the code to memory, the consumer must then search through a thicket of confusing labels with bar codes and numbers on a nearby shelf, seeking the matching label bearing the price — assuming it exists at all. Going through this process to compare two or more competing products is so laborious that most people just give up and go to the checkout having no clear idea what they will be charged.

The result is that prices can be quietly raised without consumer notice. The producers and the supermarkets obviously like this arrangement. It is the customer who literally bears the cost.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has now stepped forward to protect consumers, proposing to stiffen laws requiring honest price labels on each individual item, and to enforce them properly. Minister Natan Sharansky has gone on record as being determined "to go all the way" on this issue, for the sake of increasing competition and lowering prices. Not surprisingly, merchants associations and the heads of the large supermarket chains, such as Co-op and Supersol, have complained loudly about the initiative. They cite "technical" difficulties in complying with such a law. Sharansky is temporarily delaying implementation of his initiative in order to study these alleged technical difficulties.

Unfortunately for the supermarket chains, he intends to supplement his local research on the subject with on-site visits to food outlets in England and Belgium. Local merchants will be hard pressed to explain how their counterparts

in other countries easily manage to overcome the great difficulties they claim exist in affixing price labels on shelf items.

The issue of price labels in grocery stores brings to mind another file currently crossing Sharansky's desk: the misleading advertising campaign of Bezeq International. Mounting piles of evidence point to the fact that when Bezeq was faced with the imminent loss of its monopoly on international telephone calls some months ago, it deliberately set out to deceive the public as to the prices it was charging. Bezeq's campaign included frequent and confusing price changes. Prominent advertisements proclaiming significant price reductions appeared, but they omitted the crucial detail that those wishing to benefit from the lower prices had to first register as Bezeq International customers.

This had just the effect Bezeq was hoping for — many assumed the lower prices applied universally and were then stunned at the size of the bills they received. Minutes of meetings of the Bezeq board of directors which have been made public reveal that they had the callous audacity to openly speak about their aim to dupe the public. Some of those directors may now face charges.

The connection between the two cases is the manifest intention to fool the customer. Business in Israel is often characterized by a conception that success depends on outsmarting everyone else. This may be the right attitude in high-tech industries, where inventing clever new gadgets before everyone else is critical. When it is translated into outsmarting the consumer, it is downright harmful. It results in higher costs of living and unpleasant interactions in daily life. Each of us can think of numerous examples from personal experience of how little-developed the service ethic is in Israel.

Sharansky and his staff, as well as a handful of MKs, civil servants, and lobbyists, are doing a commendable job of making efforts to protect the consumer. But those efforts and the laws and directives which they produce cannot alone spark true consumerism. What is needed is greater effort on the part of consumers themselves. The few consumer-interest groups which do exist here are sadly ineffectual. There is nothing like the sort of consumer advocacy run by Ralph Nader in the US.

The development of consumer consciousness is an important part of the transition to a modern open economy. It is high time that strong, self-confident consumer advocacy emerge in Israel. Otherwise we will continue to be fooled at the cash register again and again.

OLEG 97



## Netanyahu is right

The majority of Israeli Jews voted to reject the program pursued by the Left, the program called the Oslo Accord. It was the main issue in the last election and the sponsors of Oslo lost.

Regarding the other issue that has occupied the media of late, the conversion bill, few Israelis have taken a real interest in it. The fact is the majority of Israelis have no interest in Reform or Conservative Judaism. Though both have been available in Israel for many years, very few Israelis have "voted" for Reform or Conservative Judaism by joining their ranks. But over forty percent of Israel's Jews identify with Orthodox Judaism.

Given this background, an Israeli leader who stalls or jettisons the Oslo Accords or who stops America's Reform or Conservative movement from interfering in Israel's domestic religious arrangements, is doing his job.

He is translating the will of the majority into public policy. Thus far, one cannot fault Netanyahu where policy is concerned. Disagree yes, but within the bound of respectful debate. After all, the Left made some dreadful mistakes while in office like arming the Palestinians and establishing sanctuaries for terrorists. Israel's voters felt that Oslo as a whole was a mistake. No one has a monopoly on perfection.

But the Israeli media has never had a good word to say about Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. They have been on an endless crusade to humiliate him from the first day he took office. Why?

The reason lies deeper than policy alone. The Left and its closely associated journalistic fraternity see Netanyahu as an outsider.

"He is not one of us," they say. This has focused their energy totally. There is simply nothing that Netanyahu can do or say that

### CHAIM SEIDEN

is acceptable to them. If he created a Palestinian state tomorrow, they would still be down on him. They seek to nullify the results of the democratic process through which Netanyahu was directly elected. The Left cannot tolerate being out of power and it doesn't know how to cope with it with dignity.

THE first attack on Netanyahu

Thus far, one cannot fault Netanyahu where policy is concerned

took place the day he took office. Incredible as it sounds, the media began by focusing on why he dismissed his children's nanny. He and his wife were presented as cruel and irrational employers. The hostility of the media and the Left tightened a noose with trumped-up charges that challenged Netanyahu's choices for justice minister and attorney general. A three-month police investigation that didn't even result in an indictment eventually bored the public. This didn't stop the calls for Netanyahu's resignation at the end of every news broadcast.

The opposition lost control completely when they joined with the Arabs in challenging the prime minister's right to open a tourist tunnel in the Old City and build a new neighborhood in the nation's capital. Two steps that they themselves had contemplated when in office but apparently didn't have the strength to undertake.

When, as a result, Arabs murdered Jews with weapons given them by the previous leftist government, and when they blew up

Jews while the peace talks were in progress, the media and the political opposition did not close ranks with the elected government of Israel, they blamed it all on Netanyahu. They "understood" Arab behavior in the light of Netanyahu's policies.

It takes unusual courage to withstand a never-ending assault by the media, by the opposition and even by some of his colleagues as Netanyahu has done.

While constructive criticism always has its place, the duplicity employed to humiliate the prime minister has gone beyond the boundaries of decent behavior.

Representing Israel's interests is not made easier when the leftist opposition and journalist fraternity attack Netanyahu in foreign media and behind his back in private discussions with foreign leaders. They have even advised Israel's enemies on how to "deal" with him.

As long as Netanyahu follows the mandate given him by the electorate, the public will support him because the Israeli public is more mature than the media elite. The man-in-the-street is not interested in being popular with his foreign friends or with his enemy. He is interested in the national interest. It was this approach of the Left to public policy that the electorate rejected at the polls.

Hopefully the time will come when the media and the Left will come to terms with the fact that the path to political power is through the electorate, and not by detouring the elected leader through the courts or the media.

The persistent and indiscriminate demand to remove the prime minister reflects an arrogance toward the Israeli voter and the democratic process. It also places partisan interests above that of the nation.

The writer is the director of the Center for Political Policy.

## Business is not as usual

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

All those who criticized Foreign Minister David Levy for deciding not to participate in the Doha Conference last week were wrong.

The Doha Conference was the fourth of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conferences to have been scheduled since October 1994. These conferences were designed to symbolize the changing reality in Arab-Israeli economic relations — "From Boycott to Cooperation," as the title of a soon-to-be book by Dr. Gil Feller succinctly sums it up. They reflected a reality which began to emerge in the aftermath of the 1991 Madrid Conference, and accelerated by the signing of the Declaration of Principles with the Palestinians in 1993, the 1994 peace treaty with Jordan and the real progress in negotiations with Syria, on the basis of the territories for peace formula, over the course of 1995.

But, unfortunately, though we have not returned to the pre-Madrid political and economic reality, one does not have to be an especially astute observer to notice that the peace process has not only ceased to advance but is in retreat. Thus, the Doha Conference and Israel's participation therein, is reminiscent of the man who is still legally married, even though he long ago left his wife, and whose continued marriage is nothing but a fiction, designed to make him look "respectable" in social circles that still consider divorce a stain on one's reputation, and to help him avoid confronting the full consequences of his decision.

His decision to leave his wife may have been perfectly justified and legitimate, just as the policy of the current Israeli government may be justified and legitimate in the eyes of those who really and truly believe the policy of the previous government to have been wrong and dangerous. What is not justified and legitimate is the pretense of "business as usual."

The Doha Conference is likely to be the last MENA economic conference

Irrespective of what David Levy feels about the peace process — and deep in his heart he might well accept the fact that the only road to peace is that propagated by Labor — he was right to avoid going to Doha. Would he have added any honor to himself or Israel had he been personally present to hear everyone, including US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, criticize Israeli foreign policy, policy in which he seems to have no say?

It was also wrong for all those Labor-supporting Israeli businessmen, who know that business is anything but "usual" these days, to travel to Doha and take part in the make-believe. Many of them still manage to do good business in the Arab world, discreetly and covertly. Why should an Israeli businessman, especially one whose brain, heart and guts are all in the right places — voluntarily place himself in the humiliating situation of not being able to be seen in public with those he does business with? And why on earth should he pay lip service to the government's fiction of "business as usual?"

Finally, if as some commentators have suggested, both Israel and Israeli businessmen decided to participate in the Doha Conference because that was the wish of Uncle Sam, one might venture to ask why the US government insisted that Doha happen in the first place? Was it hoping for some sort of miracle? Did it feel that chastising Israel from a podium in the Persian Gulf would be more effective than chastising it from Washington? And, at a time when the US was attempting to reformulate as united an Arab anti-Saddam front as possible, what good could come from a conference which symbolized Arab disunity or, at best, an anti-Netanyahu front?

The only Israeli for whom his presence in Doha was understandable was former prime minister Shimon Peres. Eager to play to the bitter end his role of hero in a Greek tragedy, Peres was looking for (and royally granted) a few more minutes in the limelight, and an opportunity to try to convince the world (or himself), with the help of the world media, that his vision of a "New Middle East" is a reality rather than a fast vanishing mirage. But the reality is that unless there is a change of government in Israel in the not-too-distant future, the Doha Conference is likely to be the last MENA economic conference.

The writer is a political scientist.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, — Both sides in the conversion bill controversy agree on one thing: that there is a high degree of mutual alienation between their two religious cultures. This estrangement is based on two divergent concepts of Jewish identification.

Whereas Orthodox Jews, especially haredim, strive to maintain old customs and rituals in an effort to live in a traditional all-encompassing Jewish lifestyle, Reform Jews identify primarily as American nationals whose religion happens to be Judaism.

Indeed, Reform religious services have more in common with

### DANGEROUS PLURALISM

Christian church rites than with traditional Orthodox synagogue services. This is why Christians who freely move from one denomination to another can now enjoy the same welcome feeling in a temple where the lenient Reform movement makes conversion as easy as the move from a Baptist to a Presbyterian church. This is the essence of pluralism in America today but it poses a threat to the Jewish character of Israeli society.

If and when Reform rabbis attain equal status with Orthodox rabbis here then we must consider the possibility of extending simi-

lar recognition to Jews for Jesus, Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists and other groups who strongly identify with the Old Testament and abide by Jewish ethics and even fulfill commandments cherished by the Jewish people.

In terms of Israeli society today, a supporter of pluralism inadvertently contributes to Jewish disunity and perhaps eventual disintegration.

TSVI NOVEMBER

Jerusalem.

### CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Sir, — The supporters of Moshe Feiglin and Shmuel Sakett recently celebrated the relatively light sentences handed down by the judges after the two were convicted of sedition.

In reality, however, this is a sad day in the history of Israel's judi-

ciary and a blow for democracy, free speech and the right of protest in the otherwise democratic State of Israel.

In the US, Feiglin and Sakett would have been lauded for their bravery in the face of incitement, threats and brutality sanctioned

by the authorities. They might even have been nominated for the once meaningful Nobel Prize for Peace.

AVRAHAM Y. GROFF

Jerusalem.

### GUARD DUTY

Sir, — Having recently visited Moshav Gadid in Gush Katif, I was appalled, shocked and hurt when I saw the atrocious living conditions and lack of essential amenities which our brave young soldiers doing guard duty at the

gate have to endure. Some settlers even evade scrutiny and try to smuggle Palestinian workers without permits, endangering themselves and the young soldiers.

The military leaders should be

aware that our boys are risking their lives for the settlers, who in return should act with more benevolence towards them.

ABRAHAM BENISO

Gibraltar.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On November 25, 1937, The Palestine Post reported the first sentence of death in the post-World War I history of Palestine was passed by the newly-created military court in Haifa on Sheikh Farhan es-Sadi. He was found guilty under the Defense Regulations of carrying arms and ammunition.

50 years ago: On November 25, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that while the Ad-Hoc Committee members were ready to vote, and

a two-thirds majority for Partition was almost a certainty, the Egyptian delegate Mohammed Heykal Pasha warned of the dangers which would befall Jews in Arab countries if the plan was accepted. "It is not our humanitarian duty and your duty on behalf of the Jewish people to place in a serious danger a million Jews just to satisfy a few thousand Jews in Europe or to satisfy a Zionist dream," he concluded.

"We believe we are very close to the formation of a Jewish State

and we are trying to keep cool — we are doing the necessary things to prepare and be ready when the time comes," said Golda Myerson (Meir), Head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department.

In London Scotland Yard was investigating a mysterious raid on the Jewish Agency's premises there. All offices had been broken into, safe drawers opened, documents scattered, but no money or documents were missing.

Alexander Zvielli

مكاتبنا في القدس



# Sometimes it doesn't pay to be a bride

Many poor Indian families are buying into a phenomenon that began after the Persian Gulf oil boom: marrying off their very young daughters to wealthy men from Arab countries. As Dexter Filkins reports, the results are often disastrous

At age 15, Farzana Begum followed a line of 25 girls into a hotel room in Hyderabad, India and stood before a graying, toothless man looking for a bride. "He asked me if I liked him," she said. "I just nodded." The man paid Begum's parents \$30, brought her to his home in the Middle East and booted her out after she bore him a son.

Begum, now 25 and back with her parents, is one of Hyderabad's "Arab-affected" women. She seldom leaves her home and rarely peeks out from behind her black veil. "I don't want to get married again," she said.

In this southern Indian city of narrow streets and spiraling minarets, there are scores of "Arab-affected" women.

They are the refuse of an unusual pipeline that stretches from the middle-class neighborhoods of the Middle East to the heavily Moslem slums of the subcontinent.

Lured by the easy availability of girls from Moslem families too poor to pay the huge dowries Indian grooms often demand, Middle Eastern men find often desperate parents willing to turn over their daughters for tiny amounts of cash.

The practice, which authorities say grew out of the oil boom in the Persian Gulf, supports a network of hotels and brokers, who get a finder's fee for each girl they marry off.

Sometimes the marriages succeed and last a lifetime, say the parents and relatives of women married to men in the Middle East. More often, however, they are brief and end badly, with the groom gone and the bride - usually still a girl - forever disgraced.

And, according to some of the women who fled, some of the marriages amount to little more than slavery, with young brides arriving in the Middle East to find they are wanted only for housework, belly dancing or sex.

While individual stories are impossible to verify - some of the women displayed marriage documents and travel records, while others, like Begum, had none - many women here claim they were discarded by their husbands and forced to leave children behind. Because many of the "Arab-

affected" women are poor and illiterate, they can't challenge their husbands or visit their children.

Indian authorities say they know of the practice and try to arrest offenders, particularly men who marry girls. But they say they are often thwarted by the passivity of India's Moslems, who follow their own traditions rather than Indian law.

The men who seek young Indian brides here would not be interviewed.

Despite repeated efforts, in India and in the Middle East, the husbands of the women interviewed could not be reached for comment.

Envoys to and from Middle Eastern nations contacted about the "Arab-affected" women said they were unaware of them or described their problems as a matter for Indian authorities.

The persistence of the practice, and the failure of public officials here to do much about it, reflects India's continuing struggle to accommodate a Moslem minority of 95 million in a country dominated by the Hindu faith.

Still, some people in India want to end the practice. Moslem leaders in this city recently launched a campaign to discourage it.

And some national leaders are trying to force Moslems to drop their traditions and follow Indian law.

"Don't blame the Arabs for this," said Amrita Ahluwalia, a Hindu who is active in women's issues in Hyderabad. "Blame the Indians. They are the ones selling their children."

In Hyderabad, the stories of the "Arab-affected" women usually begin in the Barkas, a predominantly Moslem quarter of town. A man arrives from the Middle East in search of a bride, word spreads quickly, and the brokers get to work. "We try to assemble all the girls under one

roof," said Mir, a marriage broker who spoke on the condition his last name not be used.

Mir, 40, a taxi driver with a vacant gaze, plays professional matchmaker to earn extra money. He takes a cut of whatever the groom offers the bride's family, usually about \$50. "When we get

Now Mir holds out little hope that his daughter will find a proper husband. "No boy from a good family will come forward to marry her now," he said. "Perhaps a widower."

Begum, who was chosen as a spouse from a lineup, recalled how the toothless man who was to be her husband picked her. In line in the hotel room, Begum said, she waited to be picked.

First, she said, the man chose five finalists and sent the rest of the girls home.

Although Begum did not speak the man's language, Arabic, the broker offered to translate into her native Urdu.

"I tried not to consider his physical appearance," Begum said. "I thought if I got married, I would alleviate my family's misery."

Begum's mother, Habeeb Un Nissa, said she saw great promise in her daughter's marriage. At the time, her husband was recovering from eye surgery and unable to work.

A mother of four daughters and two sons, she was working as a domestic servant for about \$2 a week. Nissa said she feared that if her daughter married an Indian man, she and her husband would have had to pay a huge dowry to the groom's family.

Because Begum was 15 at the time, her marriage was illegal under Indian law. But according to a tradition practiced by many Moslems here, Begum was considered fit to marry because she had begun to menstruate.

It is unclear how Begum's marriage became legal. Mir, the marriage broker, offered a clue: Few families here have birth certificates, so they can just lie about their daughters' ages to the clerics who sanctify such marriages.

Saturni Umphathi, Hyderabad's deputy commis-

sioner of police, said his department tries to arrest foreign nationals who marry girls. But it is difficult, he says, because the parents rarely cooperate.

Mahmood bin Muhammad, the former Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said men in the Middle East look to India as a place where they can get obedient wives for less than it would cost them at home.

"They have to pay a lot more for a wife there," Muhammad said.

"The impression is that Indian women make good wives, that they put the interest of the man first."

Many of the girls who are shuttled to the Middle East discover that their new lives do not turn out as they imagined.

Begum said she arrived in Dubai and found her husband already had three wives and 16 children. He ordered Begum to feed and clean up after them.

Begum gave birth to a son, Khalid, in 1988. Two months after he was born, Begum said, her husband put her on a plane to India - with a one-way ticket and no visa to return.

Begum has not seen her son since he was 2 months old. "I don't even have a photograph of him," she said.

Nor does Begum have a photograph of her husband, nor documents to show that she was married. She did provide the name and address of a man in the United Arab Emirates, which includes Dubai. Attempts to reach him, however, were unsuccessful.

These days Begum tries to help her family by stitching sequins onto saris, a trade she learned at a women's center. She usually can complete one sari in a week, earning about \$6.

The needlework, she says, helps her cope with her situation.

"Sometimes, I become disinterested in life," Begum said. "Sewing keeps me occupied. It brings me a little happiness." Her greatest hope, she said, is to see her son. She used an Indian aphorism to gauge her chances. "If only wishes were horses," she said.

(Los Angeles Times)

## Synagogue ruins in the Suriname jungle

The weathered gravestones lying end to end at the edge of the jungle and the crumbling brick ruins in an overgrown clearing are all that remain of an almost-forgotten chapter of South America's history: the important role Jewish migrants played in the settlement and exploration of the continent.

Abandoned in the dense jungle in Suriname on the northern tip of the continent, lies the ruins of the hemisphere's oldest synagogue, built in 1653 by Dutch and Italian Jews seeking to escape the Spanish and Portuguese inquisitions.

Built near the banks of the Suriname River, the building was once the center of a prosperous settlement for owners of sugar cane plantations. Now the historic ruins of Jodensavanne, which means Jewish Savannah, are almost beyond salvaging.

The settlement, 35 miles southeast of Paramaribo, the capital, was abandoned in 1832 when a fire destroyed the wooden houses of the village.

But the synagogue, named Beracha Veshalom, continued to be used until about 1860. Now its circular brick stairway, a partly

Suriname, then known as Dutch Guiana, was granted independence in 1975.

The Jewish settlement is only one piece of the mosaic that makes Suriname an ethnically varied country, and only a part of the little-known history of Jewish settlement around the Caribbean.

Sections of Brazil that were under Dutch control before passing into Portuguese hands also had large Jewish settlements, and the oldest functioning synagogue in the Americas is in Curacao. This occurred, according to David Brion Davis, a professor of history at Yale University, because the Dutch respected freedom of religion at a time when Spain and Portugal were forcing Jews to convert to Christianity or be killed.

In a 1994 article, Davis said the Jews were driven out of Brazil in the 1650s, when Portugal regained control of the areas where they lived. Some returned to the Netherlands, and some settled elsewhere in the Caribbean.

"In the late 18th century, Jews made up about half the population of Curacao and seem to have been involved mainly in the transshipment of commodities other than slaves to the Spanish colonies," Davis wrote.

"The one colony where a significant number of Jews took up plantation agriculture was Suriname. The religious freedom of the Dutch colonies allowed Jews to establish their own self-governing town, Jodensavanne, in the interior jungle."

The Jewish settlement was followed by settlements of escaped slaves and in the 19th century, settlers came from Java, China and the Indian subcontinent. Today, the largest ethnic group is the Hindustanis, who trace their roots to the Indian subcontinent and make up about 38 percent of the population.

Creoles, persons of mixed race, are the next-largest group. Catholic and Protestant churches flourish alongside synagogues, mosques and Hindu temples.

While the official language is Dutch, a local Creole language called Tiki-Tiki is the lingua franca of the country. English, Hindi, Chinese and Javanese are also spoken. Meanwhile, the Jewish population has dwindled to about 200 people, according to Fernandez, and their historic contribution is almost forgotten.

Fernandez has been trying for years, with limited success, to raise money to restore the synagogue and nearby cemetery.

"Jodensavanne is part of the history of the Jews and the history of the country," Fernandez said. "Part of my task is to save and conserve the possessions of the Jewish community, and this is an important part of that."

(The Washington Post)

**A recent UN study listed the synagogue among 100 important historical sites in the world that are in danger of being lost.**

"When the plantations were not feasible, people began moving to the city," said Renee Fernandez, chairman of the tiny remaining Jewish community in Suriname.

"People used to go back to the synagogue for holidays, but they built synagogues in the city and there was no longer any need to go."

Recent governments, largely dominated by former military strongman Desi Bouterse, have done little to maintain the site.

Suriname's geographic isolation has been exacerbated by its political isolation in recent years because Bouterse is accused of international drug trafficking, and the country has become almost a pariah nation that draws little tourism and outside investment.

"The ruins of Jodensavanne are in danger of disappearance through neglect, vandalism and encroaching vegetation," said a recent UN study that listed the synagogue among 100 important historical sites in the world that are in danger of being lost.

THE DUTCH first acquired Suriname from the British in 1667 in exchange for Manhattan Island. Now, a Georgia-sized country, 63,000 square miles and 400,000 inhabitants, it passed from British to Dutch to French control until finally the Dutch ownership was formally recognized at the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

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## Barbie – no longer a dream doll

The transformation of Barbie seems to be a clear case of "be careful of what you wish for, you just might get it." For years, many of us bemoaned the popularity of the platinum-blond bimbo who seems to utterly obsess girls between the ages of five and eleven.

I was far from immune to Barbie doll fever as a child. I had an extensive collection of Barbies, a Barbie House, Dream convertible, a Barbie sailboat, and a wardrobe of clothes and shoes that would make Imelda Marcos look deprived. In the basement of my house, my friends and I would play for hours, taking Barbie on countless adventures around the world and creating complicated love triangles involving Barbie, Ken, and my brother's G.I. Joe action figure.

Later on, I considered myself scarred by this period of my life, doomed to eternal disappoint-

ment, her thighs a bit chubbier. New Barbie will resemble more of an actual woman and less of an icon.

Now, I know that I should be feeling a sense of triumph. Instead, I have mixed feelings. After all, is Barbie about fantasy or about reality? Childhood is a time for dreaming and imagination, not a time to confront cold, hard facts. Shouldn't children be allowed to dream, even though their desires may be utterly unattainable? An average little boy may daydream about playing basketball like Michael Jordan, so shouldn't a little girl be allowed to fantasize about looking like a goddess and living like a princess in a Dream House, even at the risk of disappointment later on?

M.G. Lord, author of *Forever Barbie*, argues that Mattel's decision to create this New Barbie is strictly for the mothers, not for the little girls. We upper middle-class parents, she says,

### Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

**Shouldn't a little girl be allowed to fantasize about looking like a goddess and living like a princess, even at the risk of disappointment later on?**

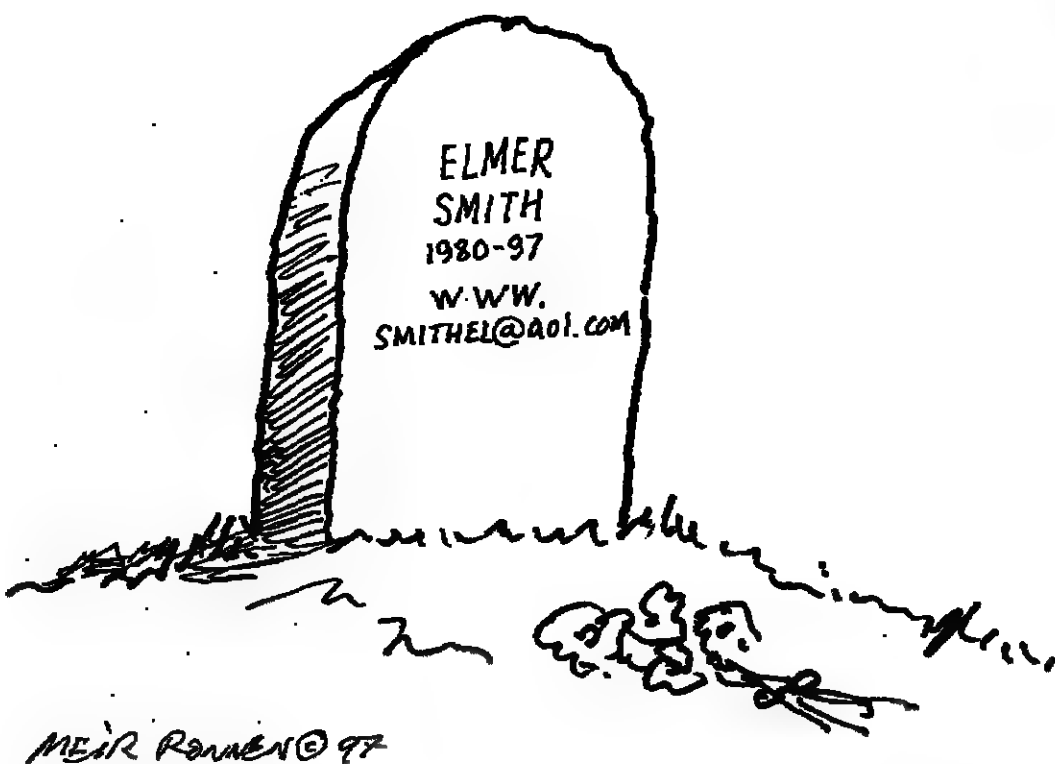
ment that I did not grow into a Barbie-like creature with skin as smooth as plastic, platinum blond tresses, a microscopic waistline that barely flares out at the hips, and mammoth chest that seems to defy gravity. (They say that if a real woman had Barbie proportions, she would simply tip over.) My peers felt the same way. After all, how could we expect to be satisfied with our bodies when we spent our formative years identifying with a flawless alter ego? So we began insulting the Barbie we once revered, labeling any beautiful but stupid woman a "Barbie doll." Any time we heard about women dying their hair platinum, having their breasts enlarged, or the fat sucked out of their thighs, trying to achieve an unattainable ideal, we blamed it on the doll. We moaned and booed, and we were certain that the mighty Mattel Company would go blithely along, churning out Barbies, mercilessly booking new generations of little girls, ignoring our cries of protest.

To our shock, it turned out they were listening. Suddenly came the announcement this week that Barbie is getting real. They are making her hair darker, her face

find our daughters' predilection for this tacky doll, which was based, by the way, on a German hoober of the 1950s, just too appalling for words, so the change is being made to appeal to us. It's also not a bad marketing move, considering that those parents who want to switch to New Barbie are going to have to invest in a whole new wardrobe to accommodate her newly expanded thighs.

It's going to be fascinating to see what happens from here. Remember, after all, Mattel is adding the realistic Barbie to the existing line, not wiping out the traditional Barbie entirely. So politically correct mom and her daughter will have to stand in the aisles of Toys R Us and make a choice. Obviously, we mothers will want to buy the new sensible doll that will hopefully give little Dana or Tali a chance at feeling good about herself and her body when she grows up. But what if Dana is entranced by that old tacky Barbie bimbo charm — those golden tresses, big blue eyes, and sleek figure encased in ruffles and sequins? Will P.C. mom be able to put her foot down and say no?

My money is on the bimbo.



## Virtual memorials

By PATRICIA J. HAYS

Amid all the fanzines and corporate sites of the World Wide Web, you'll find a picture of Carol Mickelson — a smiling little girl on a pink background with red hearts.

Click, and you'll find Carol's favorite things: Power Rangers, an animated Barney whose eye twinkles, a bouncing Winnie the Pooh. Carol was 11 years old when she died in March 1996. This is her virtual gravesite, where her mother can share grief and memories.

Perhaps it was inevitable that just as more and more people seem to live online, others are dying there.

These gravesites are accessible anywhere in the world, convenient for those who couldn't attend a funeral or were unaware of a death.

"This is a wonderful way for people to make contacts, reach out to other people," said Judy Tutebaum, a psychotherapist and author in Carmel, California. "In terms of grief, any possible way people can communicate with other people will help them heal."

Many things are posted at these cyber cemeteries: photographs, biographies, audio clips of the deceased's favorite songs, tributes from friends and relatives.

"It's a way for them to say 'Hey, I'm here, I was here, I made a difference,'" said Ben Delaney, president of Sausalito, California-based CyberEdge Information Services, which tracks virtual reality and interactive media

trends. "These kind of memorials are a way to show others that these people existed."

Initially, Lois Mickelson of Tacoma, Washington, was hesitant about posting Carol's biography and photograph on the Web. But she decided it would be a perfect place to share her daughter's story with the world.

"It's a place for me to remember my daughter. I missed mothering my daughter. I missed being able to do things for her," she said.

Carol's page has had more than

**Perhaps it was inevitable that just as more and more people seem to live online, others are dying there**

9,700 visitors. One browser, Tom Mester, who inadvertently stumbled upon Carol's page, wrote: "Well, I echo the feelings that everyone else has said on this page. I also did not know your little girl, but certainly do feel I know her now."

Some sites are heart-rending. Charlie Ranallo was 17 when he died in 1995 in a traffic accident after his high school prom. His site is filled with messages from school pals, teachers and strangers.

"I have received so many beautiful letters from people who have seen the site and told me how inspired they were by his story," said his mother, Donna Ranallo of Pittsburgh. "I'm touched deeply that people take the time to read

about him."

Virtual Memorials — where you can find the pages for both Carol Mickelson and Charlie Ranallo — does not charge for its services. Others charge from \$10 a year at Garden of Remembrance to \$995 for a complete multimedia package — photographs, audio, video, tributes — at Perpetual Memorials.

More than 240 memorials have been added to Virtual Memorials since Sharon Mnich started the site last September, with pages dedicated to her deceased grandparents and a close friend.

"It's really a celebration of life. Our lives are so much more than the little dash between two numbers on a tombstone," said Mrs. Mnich of Woodstock, Georgia, a 29-year-old former travel agent.

Mrs. Mnich has spent about \$2,000, mostly on computer hardware, to maintain the site from her suburban Atlanta home. She receives about six requests a week.

"I get tears almost every single night doing it," said Mrs. Mnich, sitting at her workstation with a box of tissue nearby.

"But the rewards are so wonderful when people e-mail back and say this is so precious to them, now they have somewhere to go and remember someone that's not a cemetery."

Some may find it strange that technology is being put to such a sentimental use. But Delaney says for all its RAM and ROM, its bits and bytes, technology offers something very primal: a path to immortality.

"I think that everybody just about hopes for some level of immortality and everyone craves their 15 minutes of fame," he said. "This is their way to get it." (AP)

GRAPEVINE

By GREGORY W. CANNON

## Fringe benefit

Even well-known personalities such as entertainer Hani Nahmias have dreams of being fashion models. But Nahmias and fellow entertainers Rivka Michaeli and Nitzza Shaul, though pretty and well proportioned, are far too short to make the grade. Last Friday, they had what may be their one and only chance. They were among some 80 other well-known personalities such as MK Yael Dayan, singers Yaffa Yarkoni and Miri Aloni, Dahlia Kahalani, wife of the internal security minister, former knitwear designer Sarah Miller, public-relations and marketing consultant Bella Diamant, Likud stalwart Rachel Kramerman and Dahlia Bar-Sheshet, public relations executive and first wife of television ratings king Dudu Topaz. They all appeared in a benefit fashion show, modeling garments designed by Hagar Altembeck (better known as Hagara). Proceeds from the event at Hangar 11 at the Tel Aviv port went towards the Center to Aid Female Victims of Sexual Abuse.

WHEN DUTY calls, no inconvenience is too great. Invited by

his wife, Eli Barstad. According to a staff member of the embassy, there's nothing feminist about married women in Norway retaining their maiden names; it's just the custom of the country. The couple recently met several of the people with whom they will be rubbing shoulders in the months ahead at a reception hosted by Honorary Consul-General of Norway, Elihu Izakson, and his wife, Ruth, together with their son Orni Izakson, Honorary Consul of Norway and chairman of the Israel-Norway Chamber of Commerce, and his wife, Irit. Among the public figures who gathered at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv were Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Aura Herzog, who heads the Council for a Beautiful Israel, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and his wife, Shulamit, and former Foreign Ministry director Yossi Hadass and his wife, Stella. Both the main host and the guest of honor went to great lengths to reiterate the friendly relations between Israel and Norway. Although Oslo was the springboard for the Middle East peace process, the



Chantal Chamae shows off her Old Masters to French Ambassador Jean-Noel de Bouillane de Lacoste

Belgian Consul-General Count Michael Goblet d'Alviella and the Countess Barbara to attend the celebration in Jerusalem of King's Day, Haifa, shipping personality and honorary Belgian Consul Izzy Rosenfeld and his wife, Ilana, braved traffic for three hours. Others present included Jean David, who for many years headed the now-defunct Sabena Airlines office in Jerusalem; Skat personality Jules Horowitz; and Foreign Ministry Chief of Protocol Sammy Tevet, who more than a decade ago served in the Israeli Embassy in Brussels. The countess made great efforts to mingle with all the guests, but the members of the family who stole the show were the angelic-looking sons of the household, Jean Magloire, who has just celebrated his eighth birthday, and Julien, five, who, after observing the scene from the upstairs balcony, went downstairs to be fawned over by the visitors.

emphasis of the remarks was more on economics than politics, with speakers stressing the need to improve binational trade ties.

SEVERAL years ago, Algerian-born Chantal Chamae was a well-known figure on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street, where she operated an antique store. Then she disappeared for several years and became equally well known in French art circles. Now she's back in Tel Aviv, where she's opened an art gallery specializing in 16th- to 19th-century Old Masters. At the recent opening, French Ambassador Jean-Noel de Bouillane de Lacoste arrived an

## Peeved about pregnant single daughter

Dear Ruthie, Our daughter, still single, just broke some shocking news: she is pregnant and intends to raise the baby on her own. She refuses to tell us who the father is, defiantly claiming "not to know." She says she never wants to get married but has always wanted to have a child. She is 37 now — hardly too old to wait a little longer to see if she meets

someone. We are very old-fashioned, I admit, but my husband and I want to understand this. We feel she is somehow slapping us in the face. How should we respond to something of this magnitude, which we so strongly oppose? My husband is considering cutting her off financially, but since she has been supporting herself for many years now, I don't see how this could

have any significance for her. What can we do? Must we accept everything, just because she is our daughter? She has no difficulty going weeks at a time not speaking to us when we do something which displeases her. We simply do not know what to do.

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

has been financially independent for many years means that she has been paying more than just her own bills. She has been paying the price — in other words, taking responsibility — for the consequences of her own actions. For better or worse, your job of preparing her for the world ended the moment she took on the world by herself. A third, even more relevant, point is that by responding negatively to this situation, you will be "cutting off your nose to spite your face."

Any severing — whether financial or otherwise — from your daughter will involve cutting yourselves off from your grandchild. You must consider whether losing a child and a grandchild over a principle, no matter how sacred, is worth it to you in the long run. Only when you contemplate the price of your own actions in this case should you contemplate those you wish to impose on your daughter.

Regarding your daughter's occasional "boycoths" when she is displeased with your behavior: If there is one fact of life which we parents are never thrilled about accepting it is the disparity of parent-child relations. The good news is that your daughter will discover this for herself in a few months. None of this is to say that you must discard or even disregard your "old-fashioned" beliefs. You have every right to express your reservations to your daughter. But, being old-fashioned, you probably would be equally unhappy if she were to opt for a termination of her pregnancy. And, short of an abortion or a miscarriage, this pregnancy is going to progress with or without your support. As such, your role as parents can be crucial. If sharing the benefits of your experience is something you would be doing had your daughter been married, then perhaps you should be engaging in it now as well.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

SURVEYING the almost regal splendor of the consul-general's residence, Vice-Consul Roger de Wulf commented that should the embassy ever move to Jerusalem, there would be no need to look for residential premises, since the building, which has served a succession of consuls-general for almost 50 years, would be ideal for an embassy. The vice-consul also noted with a degree of pride that the largest diplomatic corps in the world is located in Brussels which, in addition to hosting diplomats from countries which have relations with Belgium, hosts those of NATO and the European Union. De Wulf, whose term of office expires in 1999, may ask for an extension so that he can be in Jerusalem to welcome the new century and the new millennium.

LOCAL organizations and socialites who frequently confuse names, titles and status of anyone with a foreign-sounding appellation are really going to be challenged when they send out invitations to the new Norwegian ambassador, Svein Saether, and

Chaim Israeli and Leora Faldi

hour early so that he could view the paintings without interruption. Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo declared in passable French that he was delighted that Tel Avivians would now be afforded the opportunity to take in Parisian ambience.

LEORA Faldi, the official translator for the nation's prime ministers and defense ministers for 37 years, and Chaim Israeli, an aide to all the defense ministers of Israel from Ben-Gurion onwards, retired from the Defense Ministry earlier this month. The two were given a fond farewell at a moving, festive ceremony.

THREE popular stars will portray three of the great idols of a previous generation in a biographical movie about singer/actor/comedian Dean Martin, who died two years ago at age 78. Tom Hanks has been selected for the lead role; John Travolta will play his good friend Frank Sinatra, and Jim Carrey will portray Martin's former partner, Jerry Lewis.

REPORTS that Baywatch star David Hasselhoff was leaving the show were apparently premature. Despite threats that he was abandoning the small screen in favor of the musical-comedy stage, Hasselhoff last week extended his contract by three years, an indication that he intends to continue to make a big splash.



Hasselhoff: three more years at the helm of Baywatch. (Los Angeles Times)

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# Banking on human resources

World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn is introducing reform, campaigning for debt forgiveness and waging a war against corruption. Faced with a global economy beset by Asia's financial turmoil, he discusses the bank's role and relevance

By ADRIAN WOOLDRIDGE

This is not a good time to be president of the World Bank. The Left accuses the bank of forcing underdeveloped countries to march to the rich world's tune. The Right accuses it of acting as a crutch to corrupt and incompetent governments. And even nonideological critics wonder if the surge in private investment in emerging markets is rendering the bank irrelevant.

James D. Wolfensohn, the bank's ninth president, looks remarkably chipper for a man who runs such a besieged organization. Married with three grown children, he has the puckish grin and easy manner of somebody who has chosen to take early retirement rather than to run a global organization. Dig a little deeper, however, and you find his casual air conceals an iron belief that he and his 10,000 employees (including field staff) are doing the best they can for the world's poor.

This is not to say he is complacent. The 63-year-old Wolfensohn has launched three substantial initiatives since coming into office two years ago, convinced the bank needs to revitalize itself if it is to remain the flagship of international development agencies. He has tried to crack down on corruption. He has started lobbying rich countries to forgive billions of dollars of debt to the world's most heavily indebted nations, largely in Africa. He has begun to reform the bank's cumbersome bureaucracy.

By background, Wolfensohn is perhaps best prepared for the third of his tasks. He spent most of his life on Wall Street, working for both Salomon Bros. and Schroders before setting up his own company, and accumulating a large fortune, as well as a private jet and a vacation home in Jackson Hole, Wyo. He later transformed himself and honed his administrative skills by chairing the boards of many prestigious nonprofit organizations, including the Princeton Institute for Advanced Research and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. But it is on the subject of debt forgiveness that Wolfensohn is at his most passionate.

How successful has he been? Corruption, or the lack of it, is notoriously hard to measure. The campaign for debt forgiveness will not bear fruit for another two or three years. But his drive to reform the bank is already producing tangible results. Wolfensohn's critics charge he has made the bank even more inward looking than it was already. They say he is a little too keen on the management science he learned as an MBA student at Harvard.

But he has shaken the World Bank out of its torpor. He has forced Washington-based bureaucrats to spend at least some time out in the field. He has weaned the bank off the mega-projects that used to be its signature, focusing on smaller projects, mixing private and public money and involving locals in solving their own problems.

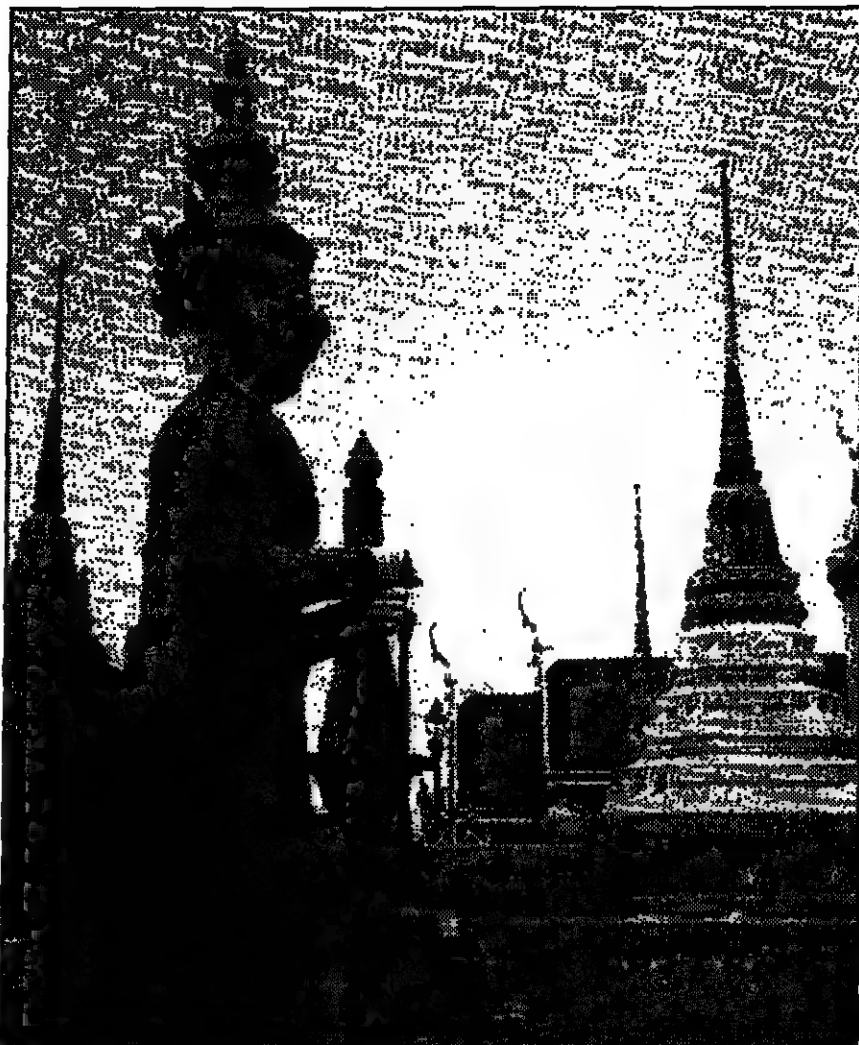
Does the recent turmoil in Asian currencies and stock markets suggest that the "Asian economic miracle" was really just a mirage?

Absolutely not. What you've seen in recent times is a forceful realignment that has been forged by fundamental economic forces which can hit any economy. It hit Thailand brutally because their exports were down. Their currency was misaligned. There was excessive dependence on foreign borrowings, and the banks were poorly supervised. But these are all issues which can be fixed. What you still have is a very educated population, now needing to readjust in terms of what they do for exports.... I'm fundamentally very optimistic about Asia.

Will some of this turbulence continue, and will China be exempt from these problems?

I don't think you can say that any country is exempt from the possibility. The United States, after all, had it in the savings-and-loan crisis, which no one anticipated. I don't think that it is a mark of infamy that you have a financial problem. What is important is that you get through it and that you can deal with it.

What I've seen in China... is a government that is aware of the problems, that is seeking to deal with them directly with Zhu Rongji as vice premier and possibly as premier. You have someone of



The market turmoil in Asia hit Thailand particularly hard, but Wolfensohn remains optimistic. 'What you still have is a very educated population, now needing to readjust in terms of what they do for exports.' (Los Angeles Times)

immense experience in financial management and economic management. And my guess is that he'd be someone who could lead China through the difficulties.

The World Bank has been fairly criticized in the past for funding big pro-

jects that are out of kilter with local economies. Is this changing, and if so, how?

I'm sure in some cases it was true, but it was never done without the concurrence of the local government. So we all

may have made some mistakes.... I think the bank can also be pretty proud of what it's done, because there is infrastructure in these countries, which is an essential part of development. But what you have to look at today is a greater recognition of social issues, about the impact of projects and about the scale of projects.... Many people would say that there is a greater emphasis on smaller projects, scaled to the communities, than on large projects, but I don't start with any religious prejudice on that.

What is the bank doing to help people help themselves?

A tremendous amount.... If you talk about people helping themselves, I guess the first thing is investing in education and health. If you don't have that as a prerequisite, you don't have people with the ability to help themselves.... The second thing to do is to try to make sure that there's an adequate infrastructure to allow them to have mobility.... And, finally, and most importantly, making sure that women have equal access to opportunities. Because if you bring the women and the girls along, you really have an opportunity of building a cohesive family structure, and you're introducing the notion of the family supporting itself, an extra bread winner, as well as someone who has access to economic opportunity.

What are you doing to make sure your money is spent on your customers rather than on the system itself?

Starting at home, we want to make sure that our own procedures are economic, efficient and directed not to the bureaucracy but to the effectiveness of projects. When you get your own house in order, you can then insist your new clients do the same. And so we're doing a great deal more in terms of the delivery, using not just governments, but where governments agree, members of civil society, who very often are less expensive.

Over the last few years, we've seen a substantial increase in the amount of private capital flowing into "emerging markets." Where does that leave the bank? Is it making you irrelevant?

I would be grateful if we were made irrelevant, because it would mean poverty would be gone.... According to today's numbers, the private sector is putting \$245 billion into the developing world, juxtaposed against official contributions that add up to \$45b. But the private sector invests in projects that are income-generating. So they'll go into a good power station, they'll go into managing a water-supply system, they'll go into telecommunications or port management, each of which is deeply needed. But you don't see them in education, you don't see them in health, you don't see them in training judges, you don't see them in regulatory reform.... Secondly, 80 percent of their money goes to 12 countries, while 140 countries get less than 5% of private-sector financing and sub-Saharan Africa gets 1%....

It's very unlikely that, in my lifetime, either the bank or bilateral institutions or regional banks are going to become unnecessary.

One of your biggest initiatives is the war on corruption. But among some of your clients - I'm thinking particularly of Nigeria - corruption is so pervasive that one almost can't imagine the system working without it. How do you deal with that? A: You deal with it forcefully and modestly. We're a World Bank, but not a world government. What we can ensure is that we don't lend to corrupt projects, and that we support those institutions in a country that wants to bring about action on corruption.... It is clear that corruption is the single strongest issue on the minds of voters.

It is also the single most inhibiting factor for investment, not just foreign, but domestic. So I think that the world is getting fed up with corruption. Poor people can stand being poor but not if someone else is getting rich at their expense. There are enough of these people now in developing countries, and with an infusion of democracy people are screaming about it. So I would guess that the next decade will see a significant reduction. I would love to see a complete eradication, but I think that would be excessive. (Los Angeles Times)

## The dawning of a new Daewoo

The Korea-based conglomerate is betting on the new Lanos to elevate it from its bargain-basement brand association

By Joel Gordin



The Korea-based conglomerate Daewoo (pronounced "day who") has made large inroads into Israel with high-tech equipment, facsimile machines, VCRs - and, of course, automobiles. Although Daewoo only started selling cars here toward the end of 1993, the Daewoo Racer became the country's second-best selling automobile in 1994 (behind the Mitsubishi Lancer). Its successor, the Super Racer, was also also a hit.

Both the Racer and Super Racer offered a lot of space and a long list of accessories for a relatively low price. Yet in spite of booming sales, Daewoo can't seem to shake its unfortunate association with bargain hunters. The company had a historical link with General Motors, and the Racer and Super Racer were based on dated Opels, which inevitably earned them the reputation of being the "poor person's Opel."

However, Daewoo has now come of age. It is replacing the Racer and Super Racer with a model called the Lanos, which has been designed independently of GM. The impressive front grille and the lines of the hood lend a "classic" European look. The Lanos is not merely a facelifted Super Racer - but rather an entirely new car.

The Lanos will be available here with a 1.5-liter engine, in manual shift and automatic-shift versions, in two standards of trim. I test-drove the model that will be the most sought after here: the 4SE with automatic shift in the highest standard of trim. Luxury gadgets



include four power windows, central door locking and interior buttons for opening the trunk, hood and gas-tank lid. Missing are the electrically controlled side mirrors as well as an adjustable front seat and steering wheel.

Safety accessories include two front airbags and a warning to fasten seat belts. There is no option for an ABS braking system.

The dashboard is solidly constructed from hard plastic which almost feels metallic. The controls are well designed, and I especially liked the large, easy-to-use knob on the air-conditioning/heating unit. The smallish glove compartment is accompanied by big map pockets on the inside of the front doors and a utility box in the console between the seats. The roomy trunk will meet the needs of an entire family.

The seats, which can comfort-

ably accommodate four adults, are covered with high-quality, pleasant upholstery.

The computer-controlled automatic shift gives the driver a choice of "power" and "normal" programs, as well as an option to use or cancel overdrive, by shifting into "drive 3" and "drive 4," respectively.

But the Lanos will not become a sports car, no matter how many buttons you push and the "power" mode only increases the engine's sound without adding any fury to the performance. I found that by keeping the shift in "drive 4" and out of the "power" program I obtained a smooth, quiet ride that would do credit to any of the more expensive family-class cars sold here today.

Once the Lanos settles in on the highway, doing 90-100 km/h. at 2,500 r.p.m., it is at its best - and

it's a very good best.

The non-aggressive, user-friendly engine is complemented by the soft suspension. The road holding is satisfactory, the brakes are good and the steering is flexible, but sharp.

The Lanos is the perfect answer for those family-car buyers who are looking for a clean, smooth, quiet ride. For the relatively low price, they are also getting a modern, impressive-looking vehicle. It is considerably cheaper than both its main rivals, the 1.5-liter Hyundai Accent and the 1.5-liter Daihatsu Classic.

For the minority of Israelis who prefer changing gears manually, the Lanos' stick-shift version starts at NIS 62,500.

And for those who want a larger car with a bigger engine, Daewoo has also replaced its upmarket Espero model with the Nubira, which comes in a 1.6-liter engine

(106-horsepower) or a two-liter engine (133 horsepower).

The Nubira is 23 cm. longer than the Lanos. The automatic version ranges in price from NIS 75,000 to NIS 80,000, depending on the trim you choose. If you want to go even bigger and better, then you may wait for the Leganza, which will replace the Daewoo Prince Super Saloon.

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### THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREGORY CRANFORD

**25.11** The Annual Conference of the Israel Orthopedic Association will be held at the Jaffa International Congress Center. The two-day conference will focus on subjects such as orthopedics for athletes and children, and new techniques in orthopedics.

**25.11** The Annual Conference of the Israel Orthopedic Association will be held at the Jaffa International Congress Center. The two-day conference will focus on subjects such as orthopedics for athletes and children, and new techniques in orthopedics.

**25.11** The Law Faculty at the Bar Ilan University will host a conference marking the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Contracts Law. Much of the conference will be devoted to business contracts and contracts in the work place.

**1.12** Employment, unemployment and the Status of Women in the Workforce is the subject of a two-day seminar taking place at the Kadishon-Morish Hotel, Tel Aviv. The seminar is organized by the Israel Association for Research into Labor Relations, the Labor Institute, the Institute for Promoting Labor Relations, the Histadrut, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Association for Labor Legislation and Social Security, the Manufacturers Association and

Employment market, career opportunities to women, new opportunities, the status of women in public service, movement insurance and solutions to rising labor costs.

**1.12** The Annual Three-Day Conference of the Hadassah Israel Office at the Kibbutz. The Hadassah Israel Office at the Kibbutz will host a three-day conference. The conference will focus on the history of Hadassah in Israel, the role of Hadassah in the state, and the role of Hadassah in the future. The conference will be held at the Kibbutz, Tel Aviv.

**4.12** The Israeli Ministry of Health will host a conference on the redistribution of power among the country's major industrial and investment concerns, will be addressed at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv. The conference is organized by the Ministry of Health.

**7.12** The Annual General Meeting of the Stockholders of Red Sea Hotels will be held at the company's registered offices, 4 Karmel Street, Tel Aviv. In addition to the annual business of approving reports, appointing a board, and an accountant, and determining salaries and conditions of employment, those attending will also be asked to approve bonuses for company executives.

**9.12** Israel's first Suppliers' Conference on Advanced Technology will take place at the Dan Panorama Congress Center, Tel Aviv. Participants will be looking both at the immediate future of Israeli industry, and beyond, toward the third millennium.

### BITS & BYTES

**EduSoft joins with Heinle & Heinle:** EduSoft Ltd. of Tel Aviv recently announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Heinle & Heinle of Boston, Massachusetts, for the joint development and marketing of a new English-as-a-second-language multimedia series for children. Heinle & Heinle is a major American publisher, specializing in the field of foreign- and second-language learning. EduSoft develops multimedia educational titles.

**Israeli companies to descend on Las Vegas:** An array of cutting-edge Israeli companies are showcasing their products at COMDEX, the No. 1 business-to-business event in the information-

technology industry, taking place on November 17-21 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. Israel boasts 1,000 high-tech start-up firms, second only to the US. High-tech exports now represent some 40 percent of Israel's total industrial exports. Coopers & Lybrand ranked Israel as the No. 1 recipient of high-tech venture capital outside the US.

**MPC developing electronic pen:** Management Project Corp. of Rehovot is developing an electronic pen that combines computer-handwriting recognition and radio-signal detection to allow users to enter written information directly into their computers. The pen will be equipped with

a chip capable of storing five to 10 pages of written material at a time, which can be later transferred to the computer's hard disk. MPC said. The company predicts that the electronic pen can be fully developed in 10 months to one year.

**Real-Time Computer Show Nov. 25:** The Real-Time Computer Show will take place at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv on November 25. The show will feature hardware and software companies from a range of high-tech fields.

**Robomatrix sells Micronix inspection unit for \$8.6 million:** Robomatrix Technologies Ltd.

recently announced the completion of the sale of its interest in D.D.I.S. Israel Ltd. to the Soquel Group L.L.C., a US limited liability company, for about \$8.6m. The consideration for the sale of the Robomatrix interest in D.D.I.S. consists of \$2.2m. covering a previously incurred debt, current cash in the amount of \$3.5m. and cash in the amount of \$3m. to be paid over the next three years. Robomatrix of Ra'anana develops automation systems that use laser-based robotics components.

**TASE expands Web site:** The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange said that it has expanded the range of data now available on its Internet site. At the end

of each day, the site displays trading data of all the shares and convertibles traded on the TASE. Check out the site at [www.tase.co.il](http://www.tase.co.il).

**2AM partners with EarthLink, Prodigy:** 2AM Inc., developer and provider of on-line multiplayer games, has signed contracts with EarthLink, Prodigy and Internet service providers in the US and Canada. According to the terms of the agreement, the companies will provide their subscribers with easy access to 2AM's internet titles. 2AM of Beit Shemesh creates on-line multiplayer strategy games which allow people from all around the world to meet and challenge one another over the Web.

הכרזת המלחמה











## UEFA Cup favorites Ajax treating Bocum with respect

By MIKE COLLETT

LONDON (Reuters) — Ajax Amsterdam, favorites to win the UEFA Cup as well as the Dutch League this season, should prove too strong for VfL Bochum of Germany in their third round first leg clash today.

However, Ajax coach Morten Olsen is not allowing his team to be over-confident against the visitors, despite the fact they are currently bottom of the German league.

Olsen, who spent a large part of his active career in the Bundesliga, knows that German teams are only beaten when the final whistle goes — especially when they are playing against their bitter Dutch rivals.

Ajax will miss Finnish striker Jari Litmanen, who sustained a muscle injury during Ajax's midweek Dutch cup match against MVV Maastricht.

"Both Bochum and Ajax can do better than they have shown lately," Olsen said.

Wingers Tijani Babangida and Michael Laudrup returned to the side after injuries on Saturday, when Ajax needed a late goal to beat Grasshoppers Dossenheim 1-0.

Bochum warmed up for the match with another poor performance which has typified their season, going down 1-0 to Werder Bremen.

But they will have Ukrainian striker Sergei Yuran back after injury and will be hoping for a damage limitation exercise in Amsterdam to keep alive their hopes of an upset win.

Holders Schalke who travel to Braga in Portugal, beat TSV 1860 Munich 2-0 at the weekend with goals from strikers Martin Max and Belgium's attacking midfielder Marc Wilmots.

But coach Huub Stevens has injury worries with five players doubtful — Wilmots, who hurt a thigh muscle, Belgian striker Michael Goossens (groin), Dutch defender Johan de Kock (knee), Dutch striker Rene

Eijkelkamp (Achilles heel) and Czech midfielder Radoslav Latal (calf).

In contrast, Braga should be at full strength having rested defenders Jose Nuno Aveiro and Antonio Fomoso for the weekend clash with league leaders Porto which they lost 2-1.

The most intriguing tie of the round is probably the one between Strasbourg of France and Italian League leaders Inter Milan.

Strasbourg include Rangers and Liverpool among their victims this season and will be looking to achieve an improbable giant-killing hat-trick with victory over Inter, who drew 2-2 with arch-rivals AC Milan on Saturday.

Inter welcome back Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff who lines up alongside Brazilian Ronaldo in attack with coach Gigi Simoni having to choose between Argentine Diego Simeone and Frenchman Benoit Calet along with Brazilian Ze Elias, Dutchman Aron Winter and Francesco Monieri in midfield.

Another intriguing tie pits Steaua Bucharest of Romania against England's Aston Villa, two clubs who were European champions in the 1980s.

Steaua will be without four important players with defender Adrian Matei suspended and three others injured.

Villa, who beat Everton 2-1 in the English premier league on Saturday, have reserved their best football for the UEFA Cup this season.

With their first choice goalkeeper Mark Bosnich away on World Cup duty with Australia, youngsters Michael Oakes continues to deputize in goal and nurtures two tough ambitions.

He is hoping to take over the No.1 spot from Bosnich — and go all the way to victory in the competition to emulate his father Alan.

Oakes senior was a member of the Manchester City team that won the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1970.

## Scharf's tenure extended until 2000

By ORI LEWIS

Shlomo Scharf is set to become the longest-serving national team coach after winning unanimous support from Israel Football Association officials yesterday.

If he serves out his contract, which is due to expire in June 2000, Scharf will have been in charge of the Israel national team for over eight years. He was first named to the job on April 7, 1992 and with yesterday's reappointment, has been called to the flag for the third time.

"I was surprised and flattered to hear of the reappointment," Scharf said after hearing of the committee members' unanimous decision yesterday.

"This proves beyond doubt that my coaching methods have been the right ones for the team," Scharf said.

UEFA admitted Israel into their ranks in the early 1990s after the country was ostracized by its Arab neighbors and was always grouped with Oceania or far-eastern nations for World Cup and Olympic qualifying tournaments.

Scharf began to mold the side when the European era began. But despite demands for success, there was a steep learning curve which had to be addressed, with the far higher standard of opposition.

Israel finished bottom of their qualifying group for World Cup USA '94, and then one place better in their group for Euro '96 in England. The local press has had mixed reaction to the national team's so-called failures and some journalists have constantly called for Scharf's head.

Israel continued to show some improvement and although they failed to qualify for the upcoming World Cup finals in France next year, they finished group 5 in third spot behind Bulgaria and Russia.

Scharf's deputy, Yitzhak Shum, who is coach of the national under-21 side, was also reappointed to his position. He was originally named to his job together with Scharf.

Scharf's tenure was extended until 2000, a decision that was made by the Israel Football Association's executive committee.

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## SPORTS

in brief

### Hundreds injured at Belgrade basketball riot

BELGRADE (AP) — Enraged fans of Yugoslavia's Red Star Belgrade basketball team fired a flare that seriously burned Belgrade's mayor and sparked a riot that injured hundreds of people.

Sunday night's game between Belgrade rivals Red Star and Partizan was cut short by one minute after club-wielding police intervened to stop the melee among 7,000 fans packed into a Belgrade sports hall.

Fans of Red Star launched the riot when their team was down 69-77 against Partizan, the *Blic* newspaper reported. The riot hit acting mayor Milan Bozic in the stomach and narrowly missed a Partizan player, enraging the club's supporters.

Fans threw torches, rockets, stones and chairs in the 20-minute brawl. Hundreds of fans suffered cuts and bruises and an unknown number of others were seriously injured, newspapers and hospital sources reported.

### Sorenstam caps stellar year with playoff win

LAS VEGAS (Reuters) — Sweden's Annika Sorenstam finished the season the way she started it — with a win — and clinched LPGA Player of the Year honors for the second time in three years.

Sorenstam parred the third hole of a sudden-death playoff Sunday to capture her sixth victory of the season at the \$750,000 LPGA Tour Championship.

By outlasting Lorie Kane and Pat Hurst in the playoff, Sorenstam pocketed \$160,000 to boost her record-breaking earnings to \$1,236,789.

### McRae, Burns take joint lead of RAC Rally

CHELTEMHAM (Reuters) — Britons Colin McRae and Richard Burns shared the lead of the British RAC Rally after the second day yesterday to set up a thrilling climax to the world championship on the final day today.

McRae's championship rival Tommi Makinen had a frustrating day that saw him up to fourth place after the day's opening stage before he slowly dropped back after a 120 mph spin and a transmission problem. The Swede, who has a heavy cold, ended the day in the sixth spot he needs to clinch the title having been handed a 20-second penalty.

The leadership fight was overshadowed by a crash on the 13th stage that left the British crew of John Leckie and Graham Lewis in hospital. Leckie, the driver, suffered minor head injuries and his condition was not thought to be serious but co-driver Lewis, who was airlifted to hospital, has chest and spinal injuries.

### SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER — Results last night: Tottenham Hotspur 0, Crystal Palace 1. FA Cup first round replay: Stevenage 5, Carlisle 0 (Stevenage away to Plymouth Argyle or Cheltenham United in second round).

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### D



# Young leads Niners to 11th-straight win

## Tie with Redskins gives Giants NFC East lead; Boomer's back in Bengals win

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers won a team-record 11th straight game by beating the San Diego Chargers 17-10 on Sunday in their first meeting since the 1995 Super Bowl.

Steve Young threw for two touchdowns and Morton Hanks' two interceptions led to 10 points as the 49ers, who clinched the NFC West title last week, stayed on pace to claim homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Chargers (4-8) have lost four in a row.

Redskins 7, NY Giants 7  
After an ugly overtime in which the host Redskins had three turnovers and a costly unorthodox conduct penalty on Michael Westbrook, the game ended in a tie that left the Giants in first place in the NFC East.

There were 22 punts, 10 sacks and Washington quarterback Gus Frerotte put himself in the hospital by ramming his head into a wall.

The tie was the first for Washington since overtime began in 1974. It was the Giants' first tie since 1983. The result kept the Giants (7-4-1) in first place in the NFC East, ahead of the Redskins (6-5-1) and Dallas Cowboys (6-6) with four games to play.

The Redskins blew a chance to win in the extra period when Westbrook yanked his helmet off to argue after his catch was ruled out of bounds near the Giants 30. The resulting 15-yard took Washington out of field goal position, and Scott Blanton's 54-yard field short with two seconds to play.

Bengals 31, Jaguars 26  
Boomer Esiason threw for two touchdowns in his first start since returning to the Bengals.

While denoted Jeff Blake stood on the sideline in a warmup jacket, Esiason led host Cincinnati (4-8) to four first-half touchdowns, his best first half since he was the quarterback in 1990. The Bengals traded Esiason in 1993, and he played for the Jets and Cardinals before returning this season.

Jacksonville (8-4) couldn't overcome the 28-10 halftime deficit and wound up blowing a chance to take sole possession of first place in the AFC Central.

Lions 32, Colts 10  
Barry Sanders rushed for 216 yards and two touchdowns, including an 80-yarder, as Detroit routed the visiting Colts.

Sanders topped 100 yards for the 10th straight game and became the first running back in NFL history to score three touchdowns on runs of 80 or more yards in a season. Sanders, held to just 53 yards in his first two games, now has 1,427 with four games remaining.

It was the second straight win for the Lions (6-6). The Colts (1-11) lost quarterback Paul Justin early in the second quarter with an injured left knee.

Falcons 20, Saints 3  
Chris Chandler threw two TD passes in the second half, including a 36-yarder to Bert Emanuel, as host Atlanta won its second straight game.

It is the first two-game winning streak for the Falcons (4-8) since 1995. The loss by the Saints (4-8) prompted coach Mike Ditka to say he probably will quit after the season if the team keeps losing (see box).

Chandler completed 17 of 26 passes for 211 yards.

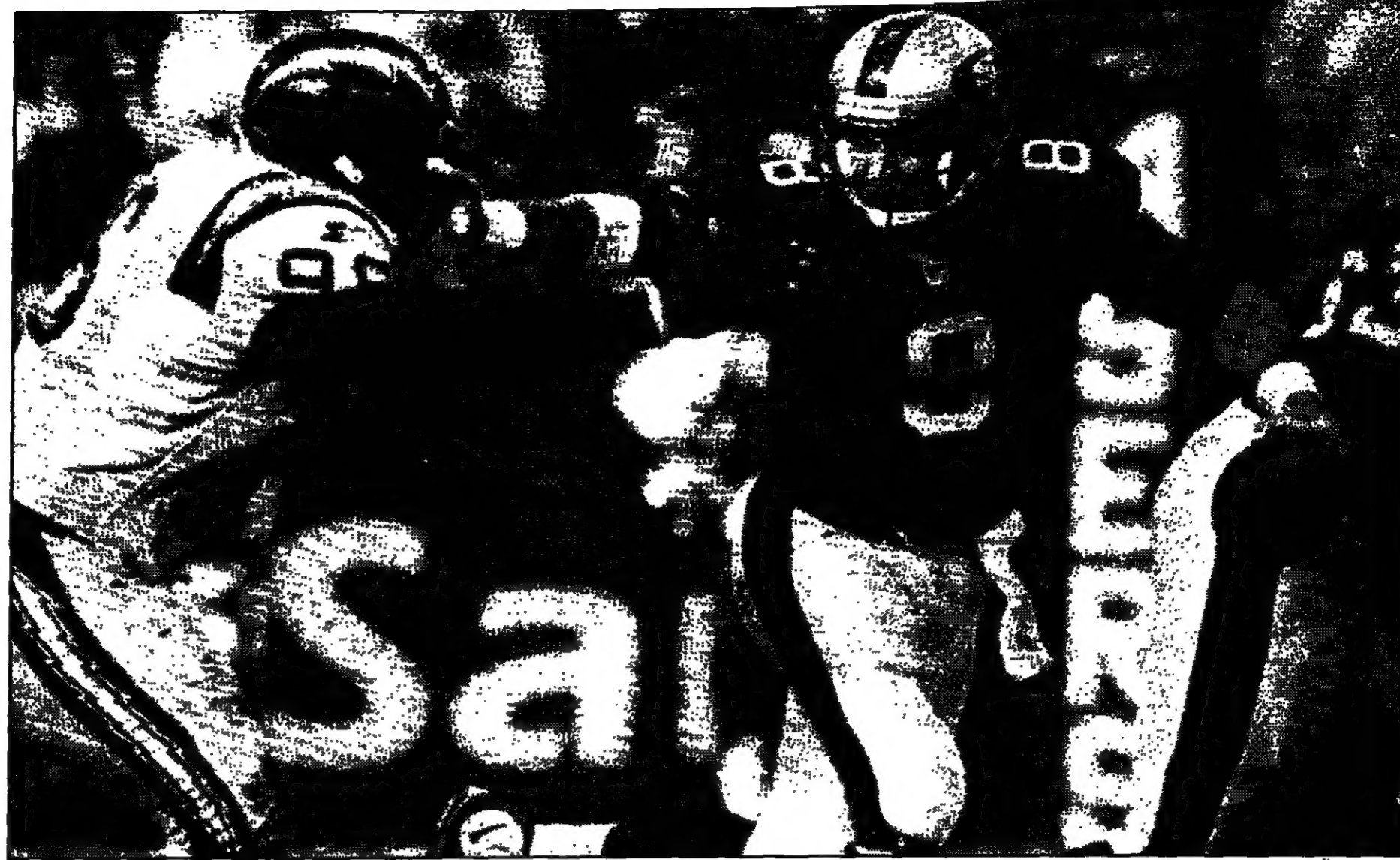
Eagles 23, Steelers 20  
At Philadelphia, Bobby Hoyer played the more heralded Kordell Stewart in a meeting of first-year starting quarterbacks.

Making only his second pro start, Hoyer completed 15 of 31 passes for 246 yards and two touchdowns as Philadelphia beat Pittsburgh.

Stewart finished 20-of-43 for 294 yards and two touchdowns, but was intercepted three times. The Eagles forced a season-high five turnovers.

Panthers 16, Rams 10  
Third-string defensive end Israel Raybon saved the game for visiting Carolina by tipping a fourth-down pass headed to a wide-open Aaron Lanning in the end zone with 1:13 left.

Kerry Collins had perhaps his best game for the Panthers, going 23-for-30 for 286 yards, and John Kasay added three field goals. Raghib Ismail caught a 59-yard touchdown pass and Wesley Walls had eight catches for 106 yards for



KEEPING HIS DISTANCE — San Francisco QB Steve Young (8) straight arms Chargers' Norman Hand as he runs for a first down in first-quarter action. The 49ers won 17-10 to stay undefeated this season.

Carolina (6-6).

Cardinals 16, Ravens 13  
Arizona got its first road win of the season when Joe Nedney kicked a 43-yard field goal as time expired.

The Ravens (4-7-1) tied it on a 34-yard field goal by Matt Stover with 34 seconds left. But Arizona QB Jake Plummer, making his fifth NFL start, moved the Cardinals (3-9) 55 yards in six plays to set up Nedney's third field goal of the game.

Oilers 31, Bills 14  
Steve McNair ran for two touchdowns and threw for a third against the one of the NFL's stingiest defenses as host Tennessee kept its slim playoff hopes alive.

Buffalo (5-7) had allowed only

13 touchdowns on 36 trips inside the 20 this season, but the Oilers scored on three of their four trips into the red zone. Only Eddie George's fumble stopped them from scoring a fourth time.

Chiefs 19, Seahawks 14  
Visiting Kansas City didn't give up a second-half touchdown for the seventh straight game.

The Chiefs beat the Seahawks for the sixth straight time and 13th in 14 games.

Seattle drove to the Chiefs 10 in the closing minutes, but Warren Moon then threw three incomplete passes before being sacked and fumbling on fourth down.

In games reported yesterday, it was Green Bay 45, Dallas 17; New England 27, Miami 24; NY Jets 23, Minnesota 21 and

## Ditka's second thoughts

ATLANTA (AP) — This was a different kind of meltdown for Mike. No ranting and raving, just the realization that it might be time to give up coaching — this time for good.

Mike Ditka, his eyes welling with tears, said he was ready to quit after New Orleans suffered a dismal 20-3 loss Sunday to the Atlanta Falcons. It was a quite a change from the previous two weeks, when the Saints put together a winning streak under their fiery, first-year coach.

"I don't have it anymore," said Ditka, who returned to coaching after a five-year hiatus. "I feel I have failed this football team."

Ditka said he likely will quit at the end of the season if things don't turn around in the final four games. "Maybe the game has passed me by," he said. "Maybe all the experts were right."

Ditka returned to coaching this season with the Saints after spending the last four years as a commentator for NBC. Prior to that, he spent 11 memorable seasons in Chicago, guiding the Bears to a 112-68 record and one Super Bowl championship.

"I gave it a shot, but I can't reach people," he said. "I thought I could teach people this football game, but they just don't want to listen to me."

Ditka's hot temper is legendary. He is known for his fiery personality and his ability to get the most out of his players. However, his recent struggles with the Saints have led to speculation about his future in coaching.

The Saints have the NFL's worst offense and have lost four of their last five games. Ditka's record with the Saints is 1-4, and he has been criticized for his handling of the team.

## NFL

Jacksonville 27, 3-10  
First Quarter: QB—Gerrit Cole (Jax) 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4040, 4050, 4060, 4070, 4080, 4090, 4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4160, 4170, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4210, 4220, 4230, 4240, 4250, 4260, 4270, 4280, 4290, 4300, 4310, 4320, 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4380, 4390, 4400, 4410, 4420, 4430, 4440, 4450, 4460, 4470, 4480, 4490, 4500, 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540, 4550, 4560, 4570, 4580, 4590, 4600, 4610, 4620, 4630, 4640, 4650, 4660, 4670, 4680, 4690, 4700, 4710, 4720, 4730, 4740, 4750, 4760, 4770, 4780, 4790, 4800, 4810, 4820, 4830, 4840, 4850, 4860, 4870, 4880, 4890, 4900, 4910, 4920, 4930, 4940, 4950, 4960, 4970, 4980, 4990, 5000, 5010, 5020, 5030, 5040, 5050, 5060, 5070, 5080, 5090, 5100, 5110, 5120, 5130, 5140, 5150, 5160, 5170, 5180, 5190, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 5260, 5270, 5280, 5290, 5300, 5310, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5350, 5360, 5370, 5380, 5390, 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5450, 5460, 5470, 5480, 5490, 5500, 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5570, 5580, 5590, 5600, 5610, 5620, 5630, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5680, 5690, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5750, 5760, 5770, 5780, 5790, 5800, 5810, 5820, 5830, 5840, 5850, 5860, 5870, 5880, 5890, 5900, 5910, 5920, 5930, 5940, 5950, 5960, 5970, 5980, 5990, 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050, 6060, 6070, 6080, 6090, 6100, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6270, 6280, 6290, 6300, 6310, 6320, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6380, 6390, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6480, 6490, 6500, 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6550, 6560, 6570, 6580, 6590, 6600, 6610, 6620, 6630, 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6710, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6750, 6760, 6770, 6780, 6790, 6800, 6810, 6820, 6830, 6840, 6850, 6860, 6870, 6880, 6890, 6900, 6910, 6920, 6930, 6940, 6950, 6960, 6970, 6980, 6990, 7000, 7010, 7020, 7030, 7040, 7050, 7060, 7070, 7080, 7090, 7100, 7110, 7120, 7130, 7140, 7150, 7160, 7170, 7180, 7190, 7200, 7210, 7220, 7230, 7240, 7250, 7260, 7270, 7280, 7290, 7300, 7310, 7320, 7330, 7340, 7350, 7360, 7370, 7380, 7390, 7400, 7410, 7420, 7430, 7440, 7450, 7460, 7470, 7480, 7490, 7500, 7510, 7520, 7530, 7540, 7550, 7560, 7570, 7580, 7590, 7600, 7610, 7620, 7630, 7640, 7650, 7660, 7670, 7680, 7690, 7700, 7710, 7720, 7730, 7740, 7750, 7760, 7770, 7780, 7790, 7800, 7810, 7820, 7830, 7840, 7850, 7860, 7870, 7880, 7890, 7900, 7910, 7920, 7930, 7940, 7950, 7960, 7970, 7980, 7990, 8000, 8010, 8020, 8030, 8040, 8050, 8060, 8070, 8080, 8090, 8100, 8110, 8120, 8130, 8140, 8150, 8160, 8170, 8180, 8190, 8200, 8210, 8220, 8230, 8240, 8250, 8260, 8270, 8280, 8290, 8300, 8310, 8320, 8330, 8340, 8350, 8360, 8370, 8380, 8390, 8400, 8410, 8420, 8430, 8440, 8450, 8460, 8470, 8480, 8490, 8500, 8510, 8520, 8530, 8540, 8550, 8560, 8570, 8580, 8590, 8600, 8610, 8620, 8630, 8640, 8650, 8660, 8670, 8680, 8690, 8700, 8710, 8720, 8730, 8740, 8750, 8760, 8770, 8780, 8790, 8800, 8810, 8820, 8830, 8840, 8850, 8860, 8870, 8880, 8890, 8900, 8910, 8920, 8930, 8940, 8950, 8960, 8970, 8980, 8990, 9000, 9010, 9020, 9030, 9040, 9050, 9060, 9070, 9080, 9090, 9100, 9110, 9120, 9130, 9140, 9150, 9160, 9170, 9180, 9190, 9200, 9210, 9220, 9230, 9240, 9250, 9260, 9270, 9280, 9290, 9300, 9310, 9320, 9330, 9340, 9350, 9360, 9370, 9380, 9390, 9400, 9410, 9420, 9430, 9440, 9450, 9460, 9470, 9480, 9490, 9500, 9510, 9520, 9530, 9540, 9550, 9560, 9570, 9580, 9590, 9600, 9610, 9620, 9630, 9640, 9650, 9660, 9670, 9680, 9690, 9700, 9710, 9720, 9730, 9740, 9750, 9760, 9770, 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, 9820, 9830, 9840, 9850, 9860, 9870, 9880, 9890, 9900, 9910, 9920, 9930, 9940, 9950, 9960, 9970, 9980, 9990, 10000, 10010, 10020, 10030, 10040, 10050, 10060, 10070, 10080, 10090, 10100, 10110, 10120, 10130, 10140, 10150, 10160, 10170, 10180, 10190, 10200, 10210, 10220, 10230, 10240, 10250, 10260, 10270, 10280, 10290, 10300, 10310, 10320, 10330, 10340, 10350, 10360, 10370, 10380, 10390, 10400, 10410, 10420, 10430, 10440, 10450, 10460, 10470, 10480, 10490, 10500, 10510, 10520, 10530, 10540, 10550, 10560, 10570, 10580, 10590, 10600, 10610, 10620, 10630, 10640, 10650, 10660, 10670, 10680, 10690, 10700, 10710, 10720, 10730, 10740, 10750, 10760, 10770, 10780, 10790, 10800, 10810, 10820, 10830, 10840, 10850, 10860, 10870, 10880, 10890, 10900, 10910, 10920, 10930, 10940, 10950, 10960, 10970, 10980, 10990, 11000, 11010, 11020, 11030, 11040, 11050, 11060, 11070, 11080, 11090, 11100, 11110, 11120, 11130, 11140, 11150, 11160, 11170, 11180, 11190, 11200, 11210, 11220, 11230, 11240, 11250, 11260, 11270, 11280, 11290, 11300, 11310, 11320, 11330, 11340, 11350, 11360, 11370, 11380, 11390, 11400, 11410, 11420, 11430, 11440, 11450, 11460, 11470, 11480, 11490, 11500, 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## CRITICS' CHOICE

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

It's an evening for singing in three different concert programs. Kurt Masur, the honorary guest conductor of the IPO, leads the orchestra in Beethoven's monumental Ninth (Choral) Symphony and Schoenberg's *A Survivor from Warsaw*, the latter a short yet mesmerizing opus narrated by Klaus Maria Brandauer. Tonight, tomorrow, Friday, Saturday and next Sunday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and Thursday at the Jerusalem International Convention Center (8:30, except Friday at 2).

Countertenor Derek Lee Ragin joins the Israel Camerata Jerusalem to sing Pergolesi's *Salve Regina* and a Vivaldi cantata, while William Henry Curry leads the orchestra in Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* and Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony Opus 110a. Tonight (8:30) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem, tomorrow in Rehovot and Friday and Saturday at the Tel Aviv Museum (8:30, except Friday at 2).

Last but not least, baritone Dan Etinger performs Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* with Arnon Erez at the piano today (6) at the Tel Aviv Museum.

## THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Hanoch Levin's *Murder* is a somewhat disingenuous look at the repetitively senseless cycle of Jewish/Arab enmity. The brilliantly theatrical Cameri Theater production is directed by Omri Nitzan. Tonight on the main stage at 8:30 (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English).

## FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ **FACE/OFF** - Preposterously violent and surprisingly entertaining, this is a fantastical thriller by the king of preposterous violence and



William Henry Curry leads the Israel Camerata Jerusalem in a program of Stravinsky and Shostakovich.

surprising entertainment, John Woo. The movie - in which FBI agent John Travolta and career criminal Nicolas Cage switch bodies and have it out - marks the Hong Kong director's third Hollywood picture, yet it's the first of his American films that really shows off what he can do: there's a fluidity and passion to Woo's work here that defies the mechanically brutal boundaries of the usual big-budget action movie, while his subtle handling of the actors makes it plain that psychology matters as much to Woo as does the choreography of outrageous gun battles. In other words, all the "action" in this film flows from the same highly charged place. There's none of the perfunctory marking time that tends to accompany the quieter scenes in a bloody Hollywood film. Rather, Woo zooms from the outset into the emotional core of the more-than-slightly-outlandish script and by betting so much - by taking the crazy hyperbole of the situation seriously - he's able to draw us in, almost despite our better judgement. With Joan Allen. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)

## TV

## CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash  
6:31 News in Arabic  
6:45 Good Morning Israel

## EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Life on the Screen - computers and the Internet  
8:30 Art Workshop  
9:00 Science and Nature

## CHANNEL 1

15:30 Pink Panther  
15:55 Super Ben  
16:00 Dennis and Gnomes

18:25 Super Ben  
18:30 The Mask  
18:50 A New Evening  
17:34 Zap

18:50 Super Ben  
18:15 News in English

## ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Apropo  
19:00 News

## HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News flash  
19:51 Garlic, Pepper and Olive Oil - baking and mozzarella  
20:00 News

20:45 Mine Host Meni  
20:50 Lotto draw  
21:00 Thunderball

19:55 James Bond  
sets out to prevent  
SPECTRE from  
blowing the world's  
smithereens. With  
Claudine Auger  
19:55 News  
20:20 Verse of the Day

## CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs  
6:30 Cartoons  
7:00 Refresh Morning  
with Ben Kaspit and  
Sivan Doron

9:00 Meetings  
10:00 Pablo  
11:30 A Little Circle  
12:00 Basic Arabic

12:30 Fudge  
13:30 Zombi  
14:00 Hums and Awe  
14:30 Joke News  
15:00 Best Video Clips

16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful  
16:50 Different  
17:00 Five with Rafi  
17:30 New Zehu Zeh  
18:00 Puzley - new  
scoop

18:30 Cybil  
19:00 Squad 132  
20:00 News  
20:31 Candice Camera  
21:30 Dan Shilon Live

22:30 Love Story with  
Yossi Sykes  
23:00 Sunset Beach  
9:00 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and  
the Restless  
10:30 Days of Our  
Lives

11:15 Dulce Ana (pt)  
12:00 Love Boat  
12:45 As the World  
Turns  
13:30 Frasier  
14:00 Sunset Beach  
14:50 Days of Our  
Lives

15:40 Ricki Lake (pt)  
16:30 Dulce Ana  
17:15 One Life to Live  
18:00 Good Evening  
with Guy Pines  
18:30 The Young and  
the Restless  
19:00 The Young and  
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19:30 Holy Korman  
19:40 Sandokan  
14:30 CHO  
15:00 Skippy  
15:30 Album Show  
16:30 Square One TV  
17:00 Secret of the  
Desert  
17:30 Des Chiffres et  
Des Lettres  
18:00 Savoir Plus Satis  
19:00 Le Journal

## JERUSALEM

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18:00 Savoir Plus Satis  
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## PRIME TIME TV

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19:30 News flash 19:31 News in Arabic 19:45 Good Morning Israel	19:30 News 19:31 News in Arabic 19:45 Good Morning Israel	19:30 News 19:31 News in Arabic 19:45 Good Morning Israel	19:30 News 19:31 News in Arabic 19:45 Good Morning Israel	19:30 News 19:31 News in Arabic 19:45 Good Morning Israel	19:30 News 19:31 News in Arabic 19:45 Good Morning Israel	19:30 News 19:31 News in Arabic 19:45 Good Morning Israel	19:30 News 19:31 News in Arabic 19:45 Good Morning Israel
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19:30, through the  
remembrance of  
writings, poets and  
entertainers.  
23:30 The  
Household (1963,  
87 mins.) - Merchant  
and Ivory's first  
feature. An arduous  
schoolteacher tries to  
deal with his arranged  
marriage and new  
admissions. With  
Shelley Long.

21:00 Dataline  
22:00 NCAA  
Basketball preview  
23:00 The Tonight  
Show with Jay Leno  
00:00 Best of Late  
Night with Conan  
O'Brien  
1:00 Later  
1:30 NBC Nightly  
News  
2:00 Tonight Show (pt)  
3:00 Interlink

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**Scharf to continue as Israel coach**

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**Sports Editors**  
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lavie

**FIFA head wants 'Palestine' - Israel friendly**

TOKYO (Reuters) - FIFA is trying to set up a friendly match between "Palestine" and Israel in New York, FIFA president Joao Havelange said yesterday.

Havelange, said at a news conference he is holding talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat about organizing the game.

"If we succeed we will once more show the world that through football we can reach solutions that neither the politicians, businessmen or diplomats can achieve," he said.

Havelange, flanked at the news conference by UEFA President Lennart Johansson, is on a fact-finding mission ahead of the 2002 World Cup to be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

The FIFA President said he hoped North Korea would join South Korea to form a combined team for the 2002 World Cup and that if FIFA's suggestion was accepted he would travel to the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, as soon as possible.

He said he also would like North Korea to share some of the role as a co-host with South Korea.

Havelange already has plans for a trip to North Korea with FIFA vice-presidents in the first half of next year.

# Walker scores 29 as Celtics top Pistons

**Lakers' Harris notches 500th win as coach**

BOSTON (AP) — Antoine Walker scored 29 points, including a key dunk with 22 seconds left, to lift the Boston Celtics to a 90-86 victory over the struggling Detroit Pistons Sunday night.

The win was Boston's sixth in its last seven games and its fourth straight at the Fleet Center. The Celtics didn't win their seventh game last season until January 5.

The Pistons have won only three of their past 12 games. Ron Mercer chipped in with 16 points and Chauncey Billups had 13 points for Boston.

Grant Hill, plagued by early foul trouble, led Detroit with 21 points, including 16 in the second half, and 11 rebounds.

Kniks 104, Grizzlies 84. Charles Oakley scored 12 of his 19 points in the third quarter, before he was ejected, as host New York won its third straight game by more than 20 points.

With 11:06 remaining in the game and the Knicks ahead 85-65, Oakley was ejected after striking Otis Thorpe with open-handed shots to the chest and face. Oakley reacted after being elbowed by Thorpe.

Patrick Ewing scored 19 points in only 28 minutes and his backup Chris Dudley contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds. New York also got help from Allan Houston who scored 14 points and Chris Mills who added 13.

**Bulls 103, Kings 88** Michael Jordan scored 33 points, including 12 during Chicago's 23-7 run early in the second quarter, to lead the defending champions to a road win.

Toni Kukoc tied his season high with 18 points and Dennis Rodman had 14 rebounds as the Bulls, who opened the season with four consecutive road losses, won their second straight away from home.

The Bulls had a 21-point lead late in the second quarter, but allowed the Kings to pull within four points in the third period before putting the game away.

Mitch Richmond had 23 points for Sacramento. Cortis Williamson and Olden Polynice added 12 apiece for the Kings.

**Lakers 119, Clippers 102** In Inglewood, California, Eddie Jones scored 28 points and Kobe Bryant added 24 as the unbeaten Lakers gave Del Harris his 500th victory as an NBA coach.

The Lakers played without Shaquille O'Neal, who is expected to be sidelined at least another week because of a strained abdominal muscle that has bothered him on and off since the start of training camp.

Harris, who has a career record of 500-430, became the 19th coach in league history to reach 500 wins.

The Lakers have won their first 11 games of the season, equaling the sixth-best start in NBA history. The record of 15 was set by the Washington Capitals in 1948-49 and tied by the Houston Rockets four years ago.

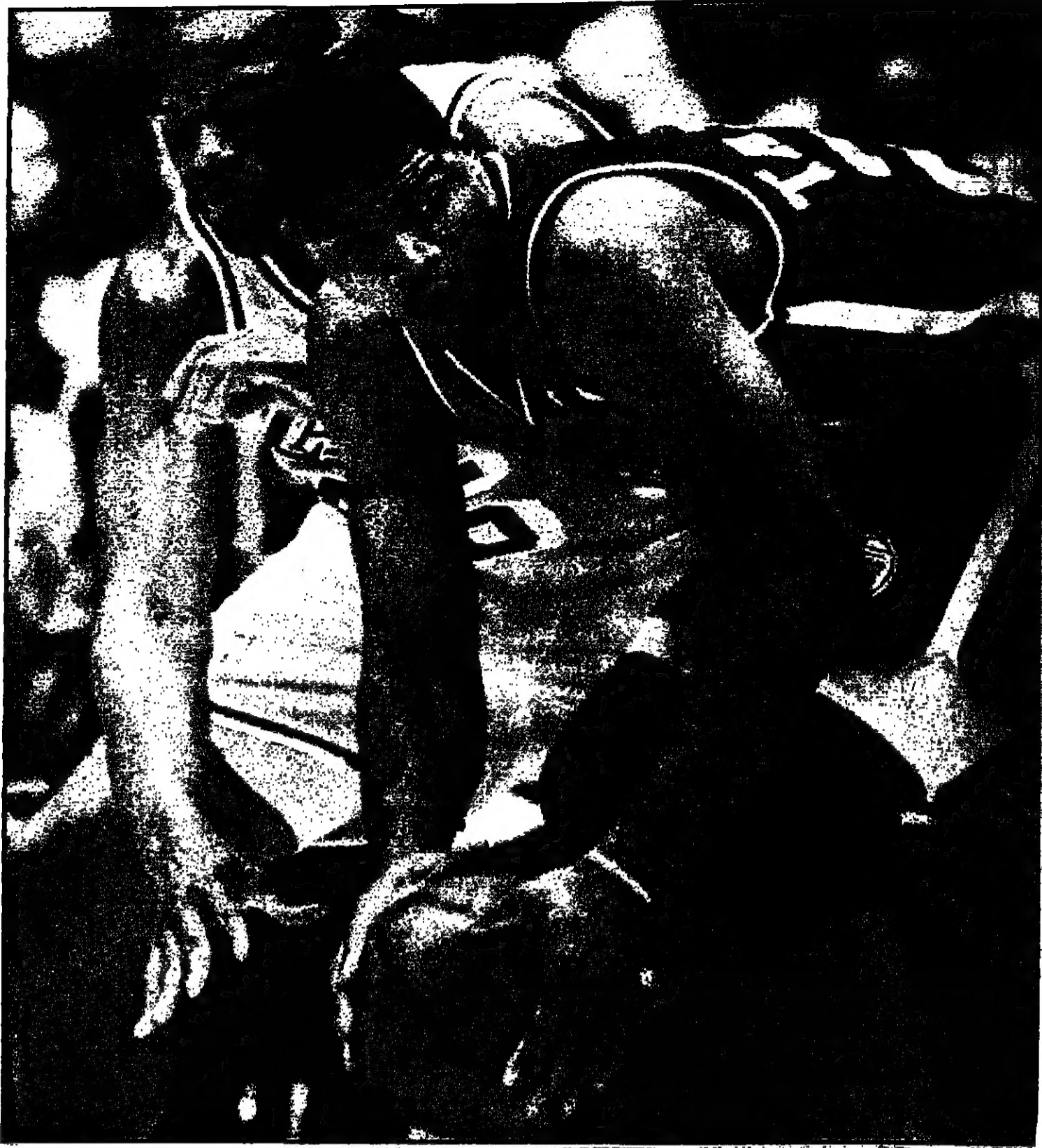
The loss was the ninth straight for the Clippers, who have won just once this season.

## NBA Coaching Victories

(Through Nov. 24)

Coaches with 500 or more wins (x-active):	
1. x-Lenny Wilkens	1,081
2. Red Auerbach	938
3. Dick Motta	935
4. x-Bill Fitch	928
5. x-Pat Riley	867
6. Jack Ramsay	864
7. Don Nelson	851
8. Cotton Fitzsimmons	832
9. Gene Shue	784
10. John MacLeod	707
11. Red Holzman	696
12. Doug Moe	628
13. x-Larry Brown	627
14. x-Jerry Sloan	583
15. x-Chuck Daly	572
16. Al Attles	557
17. K.C. Jones	522
18. x-Mike Fratello	509
19. x-Del Harris	500

**Box scores and standings see Page 18**



**HUSTLE** - Clippers' Maurice Taylor gains control of a loose ball, keeping it out of reach of Lakers' Sean Rooks in Sunday's action. The Lakers won the LA derby, 119-102. (Reuters)

## Novotna ends year with a blow for the older generation

By BILL BERKROT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - At the end of a women's tennis year dominated by a 16-year-old, Jana Novotna struck a blow for the older generation.

Novotna, playing what she considers her best tennis at the advanced age of 29, concluded the year by picking up the biggest title of her career.

"I really wanted to win this title very much because I felt like I was playing the best tennis of my life and I wanted to do it until the end," said Novotna after beating 22-year-old Mary Pierce 7-6 6-2 6-3 Sunday to add the Chase Championships singles title to the doubles crown she won the night before with Lindsay Davenport.

To be sure, the year belonged to Swiss sensation Martina Hingis, who claimed her third Grand Slam title of the year at the US Open before her 17th birthday.

The world No. 1 finished the year with 12 singles titles—twice as many as Davenport who was second with six—and earned a record of nearly \$3.5 million in prize money.

The one Grand Slam title to elude Hingis this year was claimed by Croatian Iva Majoli, who was 19 at the time.

And charismatic teen-agers like US Open runner-up Venus Williams, Croatian newcomer Mirjana Lucic and Russian Anna Kournikova all grabbed a share of the spotlight in 1997 and all are strong candidates for the elite 16-player season finale in years to come.

"We have been waiting for this moment for a long time, where we see the changing in the generation," Novotna said, while revelling in her success.

"It's a very nice contrast to see players who are experienced, who play a different style of tennis than the younger ones do," added one of the few pure serve and volleyers left in the women's game.

"Women's tennis needed a boost and we needed the young players, and I'm glad we have them. It makes it interesting for the players and for everybody else."

Just when it seemed like the game was suffering from a lack of depth and competition, with Hingis winning virtually everything in sight, the Swiss phenom suffered three of her five defeats late in the year, leaving the competition feeling like she can be beaten.



**VINTAGE VICTORY** - Jana Novotna celebrates after winning in New York yesterday. (Reuters)

"Well of course I wanted to win this tournament also," admitted Hingis, who said her goal for next year is to add the missing French Open title to her Grand Slam resume.

In addition to Hingis's surprise defeat by an inspired resurgent Pierce in the quarter-finals, the Chase Championships provided several scintillating matches and results that defied prediction.

France's Nathalie Tauziat ousted both fourth seed Amanda Coetzer and sixth seed Majoli, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario found her missing game in time to edge three-time champion Monica Seles in a three-set thriller, and Mary Joe Fernandez bounced red hot third seed Davenport in another nailbiter.

The second seeded Novotna, who will finish the year ranked second in the world, was the only one of the top six seeds to make it to the semi-finals.

And next year another old timer by the name of Steffi Graf, 28, should be recovered from the knee surgery that took her out of the picture much of the year. The German superstar, who missed both Wimbledon and

the US Open, should be back in time to challenge Hingis at the Australian Open in January.

Novotna, whose greatest liability has always been mental, will take soaring confidence into the 1998 season after serving her way to an emphatic victory Sunday.

She gave all the credit for her recent success to her coach, former tour player Hana Mandlikova.

"She really brought me to another level. She made me a better player and she made me a champion," said Novotna, who finished the year with four singles titles and about \$1.8 million in prize money.

"She was a great champion herself and she simply taught me how to be one. There's no question about it," said Novotna, who broke down in tears while thanking Mandlikova after her victory in the event she called "like a fifth Grand Slam."

The win also seemed to help Novotna make peace with her history of near misses in major finals, including her notorious collapse in the 1993 Wimbledon final against Graf, which began the Czech's unfortunate reputation as a choker.

Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality celebrates Israel's 50th anniversary

# CELEBRATING 50

Saturday night 29 November

From 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**Salute to the Ambassadors of the States that voted in favor of the Proclamation of the State of Israel**

Hechel Haratzmout, Sd. Rothschild

In the presence of

Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo,

Roni Milo

and the Ambassadors of the 33 countries that voted

in favor of the Proclamation of the State of Israel

Admission by invitation only

Saturday night 29 November

From 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**Israel Philharmonic Orchestra**

••• Gala Concert •••

Conductor: Kurt Mazur

••• Program •••

Symphony No. 9, Beethoven

Symphony No. 5, Beethoven

Batsheva Dance Company

From the Performing Arts Center

Orchestra Hall, Tel Aviv-Yafo

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

"Family Story"

Seating: 1,000 seats

Box office: 03-524-1111

03-524-1111

Under the Auspices of Mayor Roni Milo

Saturday night 29 November

From 8 p.m.

**Celebrating 50**

Back to Kaf Tet B'November

Huge celebration at

Magen David Square

(Alleyway - King George intersection)

In the presence of the Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo

Roni Milo

Eli Yatzpan, Tuvia Tsafir, Moshe Ivgi, Teapacks Group,

Arik Lavie, Bat Kol Choir,

Tel Aviv Hatayelet Orchestra

David Krivoshei

Folk dancing, Fireworks, Surprises

Broadcast live on Channel Two

ISRAEL 50 YEARS OLD

50

WAS BORN IN TEL AVIV

Jubilee

הקצאן האמרי